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Cope North 2018 exercise to use CNMI airports. **PAGE 6**

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75¢

'Delta pullout will damage Japanese businesses here'

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Japanese population of more or less 1,000 in the CNMI are expected to take a direct hit once Delta Air Lines pulls out of the CNMI market in May.

The number does not even include local residents who are of Chamorro/Japanese descent who still have strong family ties with their relatives in Japan that makes them travel back and forth.

Windsurfing Saipan instructor Haromito Ono, who is originally from

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BEA CABRERA

Delta Air Lines' pending pullout will cause big damage to Japanese-owned businesses on Saipan, according to Haromito Ono, instructor at Windsurfing Saipan.

Nagoya to Saipan route to open

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

A new airline is looking at opening a new route between Nagoya, Japan and Saipan in the coming months, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority, even before Delta Air

Lines' announcement of its pending pullout of its Narita-Saipan route on May 6.

According to MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, an airline has expressed interest in servicing the Nagoya-Saipan route.

"We are currently in negotiations

» **MVA assures: No need to panic about Delta decision**

with them and that is something that we can get a route and agreement so they can work on their approval and can formally make an

See NAGOYA on Page 4

OPA got 179 complaints in 2017

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor received 179 complaints over the course of 2017.

According to OPA's Report to the

Citizens of the CNMI for 2017 that was released yesterday, the investigation division of OPA received 179 complaints in 2017 and that 91 of that number were either unsubstantiated or lacked OPA jurisdiction, while 39

See OPA on Page 4



The champions of the National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition, who will be representing the CNMI at the national competition in Fort Lauderdale, Florida this June, pose for a photo last Saturday at the Mount Carmel School.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

14 to represent NMI at NJSDA nationals

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The National Junior Speech and Debate Association will send 14 middle school students to Fort Lauderdale,

Florida to represent the CNMI in 13 categories at the NJSDA National Tournament.

After a week of competition, the winners of the NJSDA annual compe-

tition were finally announced. Participating schools were Dandan Middle School, Saipan International School, Mount Carmel School, Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School,

Hopwood Middle School, Green Meadow School, Northern Marianas International School, Saipan Community School, and Grace Christian

See NJSDA on Page 4

INSIDE



YOUNGSTYLE

Today's issue of the Saipan Tribune contains a pullout section, YoungStyle.

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WORLD

A Russian airliner crashed soon after takeoff in Moscow, killing 71 people.

PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have released more details about their May 19 wedding.

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Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



PSS pushes passage of \$12M budget this week

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Public School System wants the House of Representatives to pass the \$12-million supplemental budget from the casino business gross revenue tax that is earmarked for PSS.

A Senate session last Thursday resulted in amendments to the bill appropriating the supplemental budget to PSS. The measure was sent back to the House, causing further delay in the budget's release.

Education Commissioner Glen Muña hopes the House will eventually pass the measure this week.

"We actually met with some of the representatives and we asked them if they can help expedite. From what I've heard, they are going to calendar it for [today]," he said.

"We [PSS] want to make sure that they pass it. ... Right now, we have already identified our plans on how we are going to use the money and we are going to move forward with that. One of the major plans is to purchase 15 new buses for the third senatorial district—Saipan—and whatever is remaining we plan to order more buses," he added.

Muña said that PSS has already identified its capital improvement projects and funding is the only thing lacking.

"We already have a list of how to take care of the funding for our capital improvement projects. I know one of the revisions that the Senate made was to give the Tinian Elementary School and Tinian Head Start the bulk of the money and the remaining will be applied to list of projects that we have identified," he said.

"They (representatives) mentioned that they are going to identify the \$3.7 million appropriated to PSS and that will go a long way," he added.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) reiterated that, by law, 25 percent of the supplemental budget must go to PSS.

"Every time a supplemental budget comes in from the casino revenues, 25 percent should automatically go to PSS and then the 75 percent remaining should be apportioned and appropriated to whatever needs there are," he said.

"We've got to make sure that we prioritize the students. The PSS slogan is 'Students First.' We always say that during campaign season but it should not only be during campaign season that we support that. This is our job and duty so we are going to be pushing to ensure that," he added.



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DPL, IPI continue talks on Mariana Resort

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

With about two months remaining on the lease of Mariana Resort & Spa, the Department of Public Lands assures

that it is in constant discussion with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC about the property's lease agreement, which expires in April 2018.

DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo told *Saipan Tribune*

yesterday that talks between IPI and DPL pertaining to the expiring lease agreement of Mariana Resort have yet to be finalized.

"We have not officially signed off on an actual lease. We are still negotiating on a

couple of items, but it will be the [CNMI] Legislature that will approve that lease," Teregeyo told *Saipan Tribune*.

Teregeyo said there were a couple of considerations on the fate of the Mariana

Resort property should the lease expire without a DPL-IPI lease agreement.

"...We've put in a contingency plan and I [believe] we are about to publish a bid for security services and maintenance services in the meantime," she said.

"We are also considering the possibility of a management contract, but there is nothing formal on the table yet," said Teregeyo adding that the contract can be between DPL and

those interested. "It does not have to be just IPI. There are many options."

Teregeyo hopes that there won't be a need for a contingency plan and have a lease with IPI by then.

Mariana Resort is a four-star hotel situated on a 1,653-hectare plot in the northern area of Saipan and was built back on Feb. 1, 1975. IPI took over Mariana Resort's lease a couple of years ago.

NJSDA

From Page 1

Academy.

Students were awarded in 13 different categories: humorous interpretation, Carolinian, Chamorro, poetry, dramatic interpretation, storytelling, prose, duo, impromptu, declamation, original oratory, extemporaneous, and Lincoln-Douglas debate.

For humorous interpretation, Jonathan Wolf from DMS won first place, Edgardo Palma Jr. from Hopwood won second place, Dane Hodges from SIS won third place, Cerina Hwang from SIS won fourth place, and Areeza Gaile Anda from GMS won fifth place.

Palma will be representing the CNMI at the NJSDA national tournament in this category.

In the Carolinian category, Issa Teigita from DMS won first place, Oceana Teigita from DMS won second place, Marian Miranda from Hopwood won third place, and Juliet Inocencio from DMS won fourth place.

Issa Teigita will be representing the CNMI at the national tournament under the English category.

In the Chamorro category, Oceana Teigita from DMS won first place, Issa Teigita from DMS won second place, Anthony Deleon Guerrero from GCA won third place, Rownel Cabrera from Hopwood won fourth

place, and Victoria Torres from SIS won fifth place.

Oceana Teigita will be representing the CNMI at the national tournament under the English category.

For poetry, Jonathan Wolf from DMS won first place, Jill Anne Mallari from MCS won second place, Vivien Liu from Hopwood won third place, Amy Rayn Soliman from NMIS won fourth place, and Rownel Coloma from Hopwood won fifth place.

Mallari will be representing the CNMI at the national tournament under this category.

In dramatic interpretation, Vladimir Palma from Hopwood won first place, Christina Kim from SIS won second place, Amy Soliman from NMIS placed third, Ariel Legaspi from GMS won fourth place, and Tina Zhen from SCS placed fifth.

Palma will be representing the CNMI at the national tournament under this category.

In the storytelling category, Lars Anthony Wolf from DMS won first place, Elaine Fernandez from FMSMS won second place, Cerina Hwang from SIS won third place, Dane Hodges from SIS won fourth place, and Mylan Goodwin from SIS won fifth place.

Hodges will be representing the CNMI at the national tournament under this category.

Under the prose category Elaine Fernandez from FMSMS placed first, Amy Soliman from NMIS placed second, Vladimir Palma from HMS placed third, Filom-

enaleonisa Iakopo from GCA placed fourth and Tina Zhen from SCS placed fifth.

Fernandez will be representing the CNMI at the national tournament under this category.

In the duo category, Lars Anthony Wolf and Jonathan Wolf from DMS placed first, Mylan Goodwin and Victoria Torres from SIS placed second, Edgardo Palma and Vladimir Palma from HMS placed third, Brandie Matsumoto and Soleil Lamar from GCA placed fourth, and Ariel Legaspi and Sabino Cabrera from GMS placed fifth.

The Wolf duo will be representing the CNMI at the national tournament under this category.

For impromptu, Elaine Fernandez from FMSMS placed first, Patriesha Concillado from FMSMS placed second, Anthony Deleon Guerrero from GCA placed third, Juliet Inocencio from DMS placed fourth, and James Keaton from GCA placed fifth.

Concillado will be representing the CNMI at the national tournament under this category.

In declamation, Juliet Inocencio from DMS won first place, Lars Anthony Wolf from DMS won second place, Dane Hodges from SIS won third place, Christian Pamintuan from GMS won fourth place, and Jill Anne Mallari from MCS won fifth place.

Inocencio will be representing the CNMI at the

national tournament under this category.

For original oratory, Christian Pamintuan from GMS placed first, Jill Anne Mallari from MCS placed second, Juliet Inocencio from DMS placed third, Vivien Liu from Hopwood placed fourth, and Patriesha Concillado from FMSMS placed fifth.

Pamintuan will be representing the CNMI at the national tournament under this category.

In the extemporaneous category Vivien Liu from Hopwood placed first, James Keaton from GCA placed second, Patriesha Concillado from FMSMS placed third, Anthony Deleon Guerrero from GCA placed fourth, and Daniel Kang from SCS placed fifth.

Liu will be representing the CNMI at the national tournament under this category.

For the Lincoln-Douglas debate Cerina Hwang from SIS won first place, Victoria Torres from SIS won second place, Christina Kim from SIS won third place, Anastasiia Shama-neva from SIS won fourth place, and Mylan Goodwin from SIS won fifth place.

Hwang will be representing the CNMI at the national tournament under this category.

The students chosen to represent the CNMI will be participating in the National Junior Speech and Debate Association National Tournament in June if federal funding permits.

OPA

From Page 1

were referred to the appropriate agencies for disciplinary action.

Six were referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office, while five were referred to the Attorney General's Office. According to the report, 38 cases are either ongoing or pending at the end of 2017.

The OPA legal division also conducted 11 government ethics code training and presentations as well as issued pro-

curement appeal decisions.

Throughout 2017, the OPA audit team attended a total of five trainings: the Office of Inspector General-Lakewood Experience; Ernst & Young-Compliance Audit, Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, Not for Profit, Health Care and Government Public Sector training; Graduate School USA-Preparing Useful and Useable Workpapers and Developing Critical Thinking by Kevin Dungey; Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors conference in Majuro, Marshall

Islands; and Graduate School USA-Audit Supervision, Evidence, Working Papers & Other Topics, Yellow Book Updates, and Peer Review by Drummond Khan.

The OPA investigation team attended the Premier Investigation's Workshop hosted by Wicklander Zuluwsky.

OPA noted that two members of the audit team gained the designation of certified fraud examiner by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

OPA noted that in February 2018, the Republic of Mar-

shall Islands Office of the Auditor General and the Pohnpei State Office of the Public Auditor would both conduct peer-reviews on the OPA.

Back in 2014, OPA received a full compliance rating, which is the highest of three possible ratings issued in an external quality control review. OPA would be participating in the peer-review of the Republic of Palau Office of the Public Auditor. OPA reportedly participated in the Guam Office of Public Accountability peer-review back in 2017.

NAGOYA

From Page 1

announcement in the next few months," he said.

"The Japan market is too valuable for us to lose sight of, so we will not. We are not

cutting back on any promotion for the Japan market. MVA will continue forward with our plans," he added.

Despite Delta's exit from the CNMI, Concepcion said the CNMI will be fine in the long term.

"There will be other air-

lines that will take up the route. The route has been served over 40 years and so we think the potential is there to open additional airlift that will build up our arrivals from Japan for the future," he said.

"We want to reassure the

community that MVA is working really hard to ensure that we maintain service on this route between Narita and Saipan. We don't want panic to control us, especially the businesses that are involved with the Japan market," he added.

DELTA

From Page 1

Tokyo, Japan, has been on Saipan for 22 years and predicts irreparable harm to Japanese businesses in the CNMI due to the airline's pullout.

"This pending pullout will cause big damage to Japanese-owned businesses on Saipan like scuba diving, windsurfing, to name a few, because 80 percent of our customers are Japanese tourists. ...Some businesses get 100 percent Japanese tourists. ...Japanese visitors will really drop because we rely on Delta to bring in the Japanese and the business they bring to the island," he said.

Delta blamed low demand in the Micronesian market for its decision to pull the plug on service flights from Narita to Saipan and Narita to Palau effective May 6.

"The Japanese tourists can still come but imagine the travel they will have to go through—it's either they pass through Guam or Incheon [Korea]. ...Personally, I am from Tokyo and I take the Delta flight because it is a direct flight. Now that they are pulling out, we have no option but to take another airline that makes you spend more time, money, and energy," Ono added.

Hiroko Stewart, a resident of Capital Hill, is very disappointed about Delta's pending pullout.

"My husband and I fly Delta regularly every 2-3 months for more than 10 years and even when the route was still under Northwest Airlines so when we received the news that Delta is ending flights to Saipan, we were disappointed," she said.

"We are also Delta high mileage members and now we are faced with the question: How are we going to use this now? Delta has not informed us as mileage members of the Delta pullout on Saipan," she added.

Stewart believes that this circumstance could have been prevented.

"I believe that the government, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and other agencies could have prevented this... In recent years, we can see that the Japanese market is not a

high priority anymore in the CNMI... they shifted their focus to other tourists," she said.

"We should always look back [to] what brought us here today. We must respect our historical ties, culture, and close relationship... The very strong ties that the Japanese people have in the CNMI and local Japanese descendants were not carefully thought of," she added.

Despite her disappointment, Stewart is hopeful that the CNMI government will have a better strategy in the future.

"My cousins spent their honeymoon here on Saipan and they kept coming back every year for 30 years. They love to stay at Aqua Resort [Club] because of the environment—beautiful beach, ambiance, and service. Now it's going to be inconvenient for them to come here because there is no direct flight," she said.

"Attract the Japanese market back by re-investing in the island and that is to give back your focus on the Japanese market and provide win-win benefits for them and for us living on island," she added.

A Japanese businesswoman and salon owner who has been on Saipan since 2001 said the ball is now in the CNMI government's court to make the next move.

"This move must be relevant to attract the Japanese market so that even though we lose the direct flights to Japan, they will still find it better to come here rather than anywhere else. My friends from Japan say that they would rather go to Guam and Hawaii when Delta pulls out," she said.

"To bring quality people on island, we must offer quality services. Currently, hotel prices are high but [hotels] needs improvement. We have old buses that carry tourists around and we experience traffic. I understand that economy is getting better little by little but so must services," she added.

A CNMI delegation led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had just come from Tokyo where they met Delta officials to convince them to sustain the route. The decision, however, to pull out of the CNMI is being attributed to Delta's office in the U.S. mainland.

Hotel developer in San Roque gets tax breaks

By **BEA CABRERA**

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REPORTER

Saipan International Group Ltd. was issued a qualifying certificate last December that would allow it to avail of tax breaks during its construction and operational phases.

According to executive director Manuel A. Sablan of the Commonwealth Development Authority, SIG Ltd. was granted a QC for the construction of Saipan Globe Hotel in San Roque.

"We granted them \$10 million in tax breaks as that was their proposal and request," said Sablan.

He said the application

was in order and CDA was provided with the documents required by law: the projected balance sheet, projected cash flow, and projected profit and loss, all indicative of the net rate of return on the investment.

"They are moving forward with their project. To date there are no other pending applications for QC," he said.

Qualifying certificates are authorized under the Investment Incentive Act of 2000.

"The idea behind the QC is to induce new investment but it has to be reasonable. We provide 25 years of tax relief under the statute but the process is crucial as it has to meet

conditions set by law such as employment percentage, purchase of local products, among many others," Sablan said.

The process involves two phases: the construction phase and operational phase. During the construction phase, "we grant excise tax relief on materials bought and used which makes sense because you are not operating. Upon operation, a different form of applicable tax break is given," he added.

Sablan said the public often does not understand how a QC works.

"If [CDA] gives a qualifying certificate and the grantee

doesn't perform, they don't get the relief. This is investment-driven so if you say you are going to invest \$10 million, then you have to deploy \$10 million. Otherwise you are not going to get the compliance," he said.

"The most critical thing is when we issue the compliance, we apply conditional performance because every year CDA requires an audited financial statement so we can look at performance versus the projection. The Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is an example where we held any relief because they were not in compliance," he added.

Last October, SIG Ltd applied for a \$7,707,063 tax

break from BGRT, \$201,216 in bar tax (bar revenue at 5 percent of F&B sales), \$354,356 in income tax, and \$2,302,250 in excise taxes during the construction period, for a total of \$10,564,884.

SIG Ltd. project consultant Antonio Muna said the project is a huge undertaking as the company plans to build a 536-room resort made up of 438 hotel rooms and 98 villas. The project will use 4.1 hectares of beachfront property in San Roque.

Based on the presentation made by Muna during the application, the company is asking for about 20 percent tax break from its projected income in the first five

years of business starting October 2018.

Sablan said that CDA keeps track of all the process such as the expenditures to make out the \$10 million tax relief.

"If you meet that every year, we give you a certificate of compliance. The certificate of compliance is the most important document because it will tell Revenue & Tax that CDA says that you are in compliance," he said.

"When the company is compliant...the certificate of compliance will tell Revenue & Tax that they are legally obligated to abate or rebate the tax. Without that document, you cannot avail the abatement and rebate," he added.

CW issues affect IPI manpower

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**

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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission affirmed yesterday that they have noticed a decline in employment at Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

According to commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, IPI has been showing a slight decline in its manpower numbers as reported by the IPI Human Resources Department during the commission's monthly meetings.

"But the decline in number was based primarily on CW problems," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

CW stands for the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, the permit program for foreign workers in the CNMI.

"...The access to labor is not specific to IPI. It is endemic across the board," he added.

Deleon Guerrero said the commission is planning to issue a public notice so that it will learn of U.S.-eligible workers who may have responded to a job vacancy announcement by IPI but were not entertained.

According to information obtained from IPI, the company back in 2015 launched a mass hiring initiative in the U.S. mainland and was able to

recruit 270 employees at the expense of \$1.5 million.

After Typhoon Soudelor struck, IPI spent an additional \$500,000 to repatriate about 80 percent of the employees back to the U.S. mainland.

According to a statement from IPI, only 30 of the 270 employees recruited remain employed at IPI.

"IPI has been able to fill these positions with U.S. and non-U.S. citizens," said the statement, adding that it now employs 44 percent U.S. eligible workers and 56 percent foreign workers.

"Despite spending years and millions of dollars on recruitment in the U.S. mainland, Puerto Rico, Guam, all throughout Micronesia, and the entire CNMI, we have not been able to reach this mandate," reads the statement, referring to its Casino License Agreement mandate to employ 65 percent U.S. workers.

IPI statistics provides that the number of dealers at the casino is at 232 as of publication. In order to lessen the blow of the CW permit limitations, IPI said they continuously offer internal development programs as well as a dealer trainee program to "grow our staff" while coordinating with local institutions on dealer training.

OPA to hold ethics presentations

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting ethics presentations on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and is inviting agencies or individuals who are interested in attending to contact OPA.

On Saipan, the presentation will be held on Feb. 20, 2018, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, starting at 9am; there will be a second session starting at 1pm.

On Rota, it will be on March 1, 2018, at the Northern Marianas College Rota instructional site. On Tinian, it will be on March 9, at the NMC Tinian instructional site. On both sites, the ethics pre-

sentation will start at 10am; there will be a second session starting at 2pm.

While on Rota and Tinian, the staff of the OPA will be notarizing and accepting filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials.

All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services.

To register, call Michelle Camacho at the Office of the Public Auditor at telephone number 322-6481. (PR)

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Cope North 2018 exercise to use CNMI airports

ASAN, Guam—The United States and its Australian and Japanese allies are scheduled to participate in exercise Cope North 2018 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and includes exercise operations at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Tinian International Airport, and North Field on Tinian and at

the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on Rota, from Feb. 14 through Mar. 2, 2018.

Cope North 2018, or CN18, is a longstanding exercise designed to enhance multilateral air operations between

the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, Japan Air Self-Defense Force, and Royal Australian Air Force.

Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas, said that “Guam and the islands of the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are not only valued areas for realistic training but also Pacific communities where natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons are always a threat to community wellbeing. Cope North offers the military an opportunity to remain well-prepared to assist Guam and the CNMI and enhance community resilience.”

The exercise will begin with a weeklong humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training and consist of

a number of aerial and force employment events designed to increase readiness among the allied nations.

Military aircraft will operate between the islands with Rota as a “hub” for assistance and relief and in waters around the islands conducting search and rescue training.

More than 2,000 U.S. airmen and sailors will train alongside approximately 850 combined JASDF and RAAF service members.

Additionally, more than 100 aircraft, composed of 21

flying units from the United States, Japan and Australia, will participate in CN18.

Beginning in 1978 as a quarterly bilateral exercise held at Misawa Air Base, Japan, Cope North was moved to the Andersen Air Force Base in 1999. Today, the annual exercise serves as a keystone event to promote stability and security throughout the Indo-Pacific by enabling regional forces to hone vital readiness skills critical to maintaining regional stability. **(PR)**

In this Feb. 15, 2015 file photo, U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 36th Contingency Response Group offload cargo from a Royal Australian Air Force C-130 Hercules during a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training event at exercise Cope North 15 on Rota.

U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH.
SGT. JASON ROBERTSON



6.2 magnitude earthquake jolts east of Rota

A 6.2 magnitude earthquake occurred 86 miles east of Rota yesterday morning, but there were no reports of damage to property, nor did it cause a tsunami threat.

A Rota police officer told *Saipan Tribune* that he did not feel the shaking and that there was no reported damage to property or injuries on the island.

On Saipan, some residents felt the jolt and even evacuated their offices for a few minutes.

Liza, 25, said that, although she did not feel the earthquake, she saw some employees of a government agency in Dandan gathering outside their office because of the jolt.

According to the CNMI Joint Information Center, the earthquake, which had a depth of 26 miles, happened at 9:14am and that some areas may have experienced shaking.

“Be observant and exercise normal caution if you are near or in the ocean...otherwise no action is required. No tsunami impacts are expected,” the information center said. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

MINA hosts first Mardi Gras mixer

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

In a first for the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, the organization hosted its first “Mardi Gras”-themed mixer to raise funds for their biggest outreach program of the year called Schools for Conservation.

Over the weekend, MINA staff and supporters gathered at the Godfather’s Beach Bar at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan where a portion of every drinks sold was given to the organization. MINA also sold beads and raffle tickets from 3pm to 10pm so that participants can appear in appropriate Mardi Gras outfit.

According to MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero, the event allowed MINA supporters to come together, discuss environmental conservation, and just enjoy the company of one another while also supporting the alliance.

“It’s basically just to have

people come out and get together, get to know one another, and just mix and mingle,” she said.

Guerrero said funds would go toward operational expenses because the alliance has a lot of projects. “Every dollar really helps toward our mission,” she said.

A hefty amount of the funds raised will go to funding one of the alliance’s biggest outreach programs of the year that aims to educate high school and middle school students on what they can do to ensure safety for coral reefs.

“This year is the Year of the Coral Reef so we have a big project right now that is called Schools for Conservation and we have, I believe, seven schools participating in this program,” she said.

According to MINA program manager Becky Furey, the program started back in 2005 to encourage teachers to incorporate coral reef ecol-

ogy in their lesson plans. The program has since transitioned to involving both students and the teachers.

According to Furey, the workshop and orientation will be held on March 3. Students will have the opportunity to meet with specialists to learn more about coral reefs.

The students will also learn about conservation action plans and will be tasked with the development of conservation action plan for their campuses.

Students and teachers will be provided stipends by the alliance at the end of the program.

The schools that will participate are Mount Carmel School, Dandan Middle School, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, Francisco Sablan Mendiola Middle School, and Tanapag Middle School. MINA is still waiting for confirmation from other participating school.

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DCCA/HPO-052**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 02, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW DIGITAL COLOR COPIER MACHINE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORY OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-01**

SUBMISSION DATE: March 15, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF TRANSPORT VEHICLE (12-15 Passenger Van) FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY, DRUG COURT DIVISION”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IMWAL AWEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REMIGIO N. NELMIDA) FCD-DI-CIVIL
Petitioner,) ACTION NO.
vs.) 18-0012
SOLEDAD MADRIGAL)
NELMIDA)
Respondent,) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 8032 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2018.

/s/
Clerk of Court

DOMINGO L. DY JR.
ARMELIA E. DY
P.O. BOX 500549 SAIPAN, MP 96950
235-2235/233-6245

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE)
GUARDIANSHIP OF)
MICHAEL JOHN DY) FCD GU CIVIL
An Incompetent) ACTION NO. 18-0031
by) **NOTICE OF HEARING**
DOMINGO L. DY JR.)
ARMELIA E. DY)
Petitioner)

**TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC,
AND THE CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT
OR HER RESPECTIVE ESTATE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by DOMINGO L. DY JR & ARMELIA DY, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at the CNMI Judiciary, before Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio on the 26th day of February, 2018 at 9 A.M. in Courtroom 217A or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: /s/
Deputy Clerk of Court

RITA R. FITIAL
P.O. BOX 7235 SVRB
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: 285-1964

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF)
THE APPOINTMENT OF)
AS GUARDIAN OF THE) FCD GU CIVIL
ESTATE OF: E.P.R.Y.) ACTION NO.:
(DOB: 3/10/2009)) 18-0058
MINOR CHILD)

BY:) **NOTICE OF HEARING**
RITA R. FITIAL)
PETITIONER)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT A PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR THE ESTATE OF THE ABOVE-NAMED MINOR CHILD BY RITA R. FITIAL, PETITIONER, WAS FILED WITH THE ABOVE-ENTITLED HONORABLE COURT.

A HEARING OF SAID PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP WILL BE HELD AT THE ABOVE-ENTITLED HONORABLE COURT AT THE SUPERIOR COURT BEFORE THE ASSOCIATE JUDGE TERESA K. KIM-TENORIO ON THE 5TH DAY OF MARCH, 2018 AT 9:00AM OR AS SOON AS THEREAFTER.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
CLERK OF COURT

/S/ BY DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

Francisca Nebrida Gaolong
P.O. Box 505651 C.K.
670-286-0605 / 783-5778

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Francisca Nebrida)
Gaolong) FCD-DI-CIVIL
Petitioner) ACTION
vs.) NO. 18-0016
Feng Gaolong) **SUMMONS**
Respondent)

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Francisca N. Gaolong whose mailing address is P.O. Box 505651 CK Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing. Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at P.O. Box 500307 Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2018.

/s/
Clerk of Court



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Joeten Motors offers Honda HRV as hole-in-one prize

Joeten Motors is offering a new Honda HRV as a hole-in-one prize in the upcoming 15th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament.

The tournament is scheduled for Saturday, March 3, 2018, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort and will be the first major golf tournament of the year.

"NMC's Foundation Golf Tournament continues to raise funds that benefit students and their efforts to grow professionally," said Matthew Deets, general manager of Joeten Motors. "We are proud to be part of this year's tournament again with our company's hole-in-one prize contribution."

"Joeten Motors has consistently been a part of the success of NMC's Foundation Golf Tournament, and we are glad the company is joining us this year as a major sponsor again," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

"Joeten Motors' hole-in-one



Joeten Motors is offering a Honda HRV that will be featured at the upcoming annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 3, 2018. In the photo are Ray Alvarez, Joeten Motors sales manager, second from right, and NMC staff and students led by NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, right.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Additional hole-in-one prizes include a Toyota Tacoma Pre-Runner, \$10,000 in cash from Marianas Insurance Co., and \$5,000 in cash from Pacifica Insurance. The tournament will also feature many other items as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meal gift certificates, and other luxury items.

Registration and payment can be made at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort or the NMC Cashier's Office. For sponsorship opportunities or registration information, visit marianas.edu or call 237-6833. (NMC)

donation raises the excitement and anticipation of the tournament," said Mary Tenorio, NMC Foundation president. "We are grateful for the company's support."

The golf tournament is

NMC Foundation's signature event that raises funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

The 15th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament will be held on Sat-

urday, March 3, 2018, at the west course of the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Showtime is at 6am and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights will each receive \$500, while \$300 and \$200 will go to the second and third place finishers, respectively.

MCS VOX Knights rock recent competitions

Members of Mount Carmel School's newest club, VOX Knights, fared well in recent competitions held by the Primary Grade Forensic League and the National Junior Speech and Debate Association.

In NJSDA, Jill Anne Mallari secured a place on the CNMI National Team that will compete in the NJSDA National Competition in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this June. Mallari took second place in Original Oratory, second place in Poetry, and fifth place in Declamation.

The following Knights excelled throughout the year, earning them enough points to compete in the recently concluded regional competition: Raesyl Solis, Hannah Lacap, Renee Kiser, and Kyla Cabrera.

In PGFC, the following placed in the K-2 division: Jaze Enzo San Nicolas (first place Impromptu, fifth place Readers Forum Masters), Remiegem Melchor (first place Impromptu, third place Readers Forum Masters), and Donray Barcinas (fifth place Impromptu).

In the PGFC 3-5 division, the followed placed: Valerie Anne Estella (first place Impromptu), Kiana Sablan (second place Impromptu), Heleya Dela Santa (third place Impromptu), Justin Mallari (fourth place Impromptu), and Oscar Buenaflor (fifth place Impromptu).

Over the years, hundreds of Mount Carmel School Knights of all ages have distinguished themselves as accomplished orators who have won countless PGFC, NJS-

DA, and NSDA first place ribbons, seven CNMI Mock Trial Championships, and 18 wins in the annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition. Capitalizing on this impressive track record, this year, speakers and debaters at the

school came together to form a new club, VOX Knights.

Taking its name from the Latin word for voice, VOX Knights brings together students of all grade levels who use their voice in various interscholastic competitions,

including NSDA, NJSDA, PGFC, Mock Trial, and ITS. Together, these students have committed themselves to the club's mission to *dice-re veritas et iustitia*, which in Latin means, "speak truth and justice." (PR)



The National Junior Speech and Debate Association and Primary Grade Forensic League VOX Knights and the VOX Knights officers gather for a group photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lion's Club assists over 200 in health fair

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The District 204 Lion's Club hosted its annual health fair at the Mount Carmel Diocese's Daidai Social Hall last Saturday, and assisted over 200 members of the public.

According to the Lion's Club District 204 governor Arturu Navarro, those who went to the health fair got free eye screenings and a pair of free reading lasses, free blood sugar screenings, free blood pressure screenings, and free immunization shots.

All the services were free of charge, thanks to the generosity of Lion's Club sponsors and partners.

The public was also given the opportunity to learn more about cardiopulmonary resus-

citation through the Department of Public Health.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association was also present to offer cancer awareness tips and share what steps can be taken to prevent cancer or obtain treatment.

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services also educated the public about the risks of diabetes and how it can be prevented.

The Lion's Club is a non-profit organization that is constantly looking for ways to assist the community. The annual health fair is one of the ways the club aims to fulfill the needs of the community through awareness and prevention.

"Where there is a need, there is a lion," said Navarro.

Pacific nation of Tonga braces for Cyclone Gita

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Some people in Tonga are nailing pieces of wood over their windows while others are evacuating as they brace for a cyclone that is due to hit Monday night.

The Pacific island nation has declared a state of emergency in anticipation of Cyclone Gita. Weather experts say Gita is packing sustained winds of 195 kilometers per hour (121 miles per hour) and is expected to intensify before making landfall.

The storm has strengthened since hitting Samoa and American Samoa last week, where it caused damage to buildings, widespread power outages and flooding.

President Donald Trump on Sunday declared an emergency in American Samoa, a U.S. territory. The declaration allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide equipment and resources.

Tonga is home to about 105,000 people.

Rudnytsky to hold two romantic music concerts

The Friends of the Arts thanks Roman Rudnytsky, an internationally renowned classical pianist, for his continued service to the CNMI community during his current visit.

Since his arrival last Feb. 3, he has been visiting CNMI schools, both public and private, playing for their enjoyment and discussing classical music with the students. Rudnytsky will continue his school visits daily during his two-week stay in the CNMI.

The FOA will sponsor two special concerts during Rudnytsky's visit, a rare chance to listen to live classical mu-

sic played by a master pianist. The Friends of the Arts invites the community to enjoy this special opportunity

Rudnytsky will be performing a special "Magic of Love" concert on Valentine's Day evening, Feb. 14, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. This concert of romantic music is open to the public at the cost of \$8 for adult FOA members, \$10 for adult non-members, \$5 for students and children over age 4. Special treats will be provided to help make it a great way to celebrate a special day with your special person. The

doors will open at 6:30pm and the concert will begin at 7pm. Reservations can be made by contacting Frank Gibson by phone or text at 287-7476 or, preferably, by email at flgibson@yahoo.com.

The second concert will be on Saturday, Feb. 17, also at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. This performance will also be open to the public at the cost of \$6 for adult FOA members, \$8 for adult non-members, \$4 for students and children over age 4. The doors will open at 6:30pm and the concert will begin at 7pm.

The two programs will include differing selections each night from such classical masters as Chopin, Albeniz, Beethoven, Debussy, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, and other musical greats, to include Debussy's *Clair de Lune*. Each concert will have different selections of music.

The Commonwealth's young magician, Neil Fama, grand prize winner at this year's Bridge Capital's CNMI's Got Talent, will entertain during intermission with a demonstration of his magical talent.

This is Rudnytsky's ninth trip to the CNMI. He travels at his own expense and donates his time to the community. The Friends of the Arts, with the help of sponsors, has hosted Rudnytsky's stay. This year's

sponsors are the Office of the Governor, Bridge Capital, IT&E, Drs. Edgar and Susan Tudor, Atkins-Kroll Toyota, Hertz Car Rental, Brabu Pharmacy, Dental Care, Triple J Saipan, Everest Kitchen Res-

taurant, Toothworks Dental Clinic, PHI Pharmacy, Paradise Dental Center, Hardt Eye Clinic, J's Restaurant, Yaong Corp., Tasi Tours, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort Club, and HR Support, CNMI. **(PR)**

USCG action resumes in A. Samoa in response to grounded vessel



U.S. COAST GUARD/PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS TARA MOLLE

Cmdr. Ulysses Mullins, deputy sector commander Coast Guard Sector Honolulu, and chief warrant officer Bryan Anderson, Coast Guard Sector Honolulu, discuss future operations for the removal of product aboard the 88-foot commercial fishing vessel *Chui Zai Fa No. 1* grounded about 300 yards off Leone Bay, American Samoa, Feb. 11, 2018.

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—The U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port has reopened the port of Pago Pago to commercial traffic Sunday, following Tropical Cyclone Gita, and work to remove the *Chui Zai Fa No. 1* continues.

"I really appreciate the exceptional effort of our port partners in American Samoa during this difficult time," said Capt. Mike Long, Coast Guard Captain of the Port. "Reopening the port is a vital step in the reconstitution of the maritime transportation system in American Samoa and allows for the free flow of commerce to the island."

Personnel from Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment American Samoa conducted a post-storm port survey aboard the tug *Sailele* and deemed

the port safe to be reopened to commercial traffic.

A Coast Guard HC-130 airplane crew, Coast Guard response personnel and a FEMA representative arrived in American Samoa late Saturday afternoon from Air Station Barbers Point, Hawaii, to conduct an aerial post-storm assessment.

High winds remain a concern through the remainder of the weekend, as responders work to assess the region and resume the response to the grounded 88-foot commercial fishing vessel *Chui Zai Fa No. 1*, located approximately 300 yards off Leone Bay.

The owner of the *Chui Zai Fa No. 1* is the responsible party and is actively working with Coast Guard officials and local authorities to develop a

salvage plan for the grounded fishing vessel.

A small craft advisory remains in effect for American Samoa with frequent showers and scattered thunderstorms. Winds are reportedly 23 to 35 mph with seas at 12 to 16 feet. Power and water outages are reportedly still affecting the island.

The public is reminded that the site immediately around the vessel and the vessel itself are dangerous. It is in a heavy surf zone and the structure of the vessel is compromised. Non-response personnel should remain clear of the vessel and surrounding area.

The Taiwanese-flagged vessel reportedly caught fire Nov. 4, 2017, in international waters and remained adrift until its grounding Monday. **(USCG)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW-18-IFB-009

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ANIMAL SHELTER BUILDING AS PERDIDO, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Construction of New Animal Shelter, As Perdido, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 6, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 22, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the project site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 2, 2018** to **Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-18-IFB-009". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time March 7, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 7, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 7, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **March 16, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, March 21, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 7, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLON
Director of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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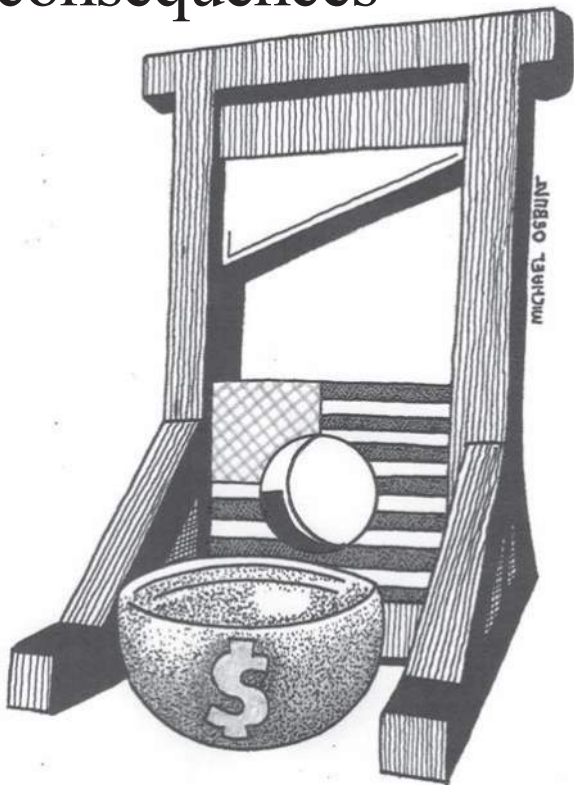
MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Yes, Congress passed a budget deal. But its debt addiction has consequences

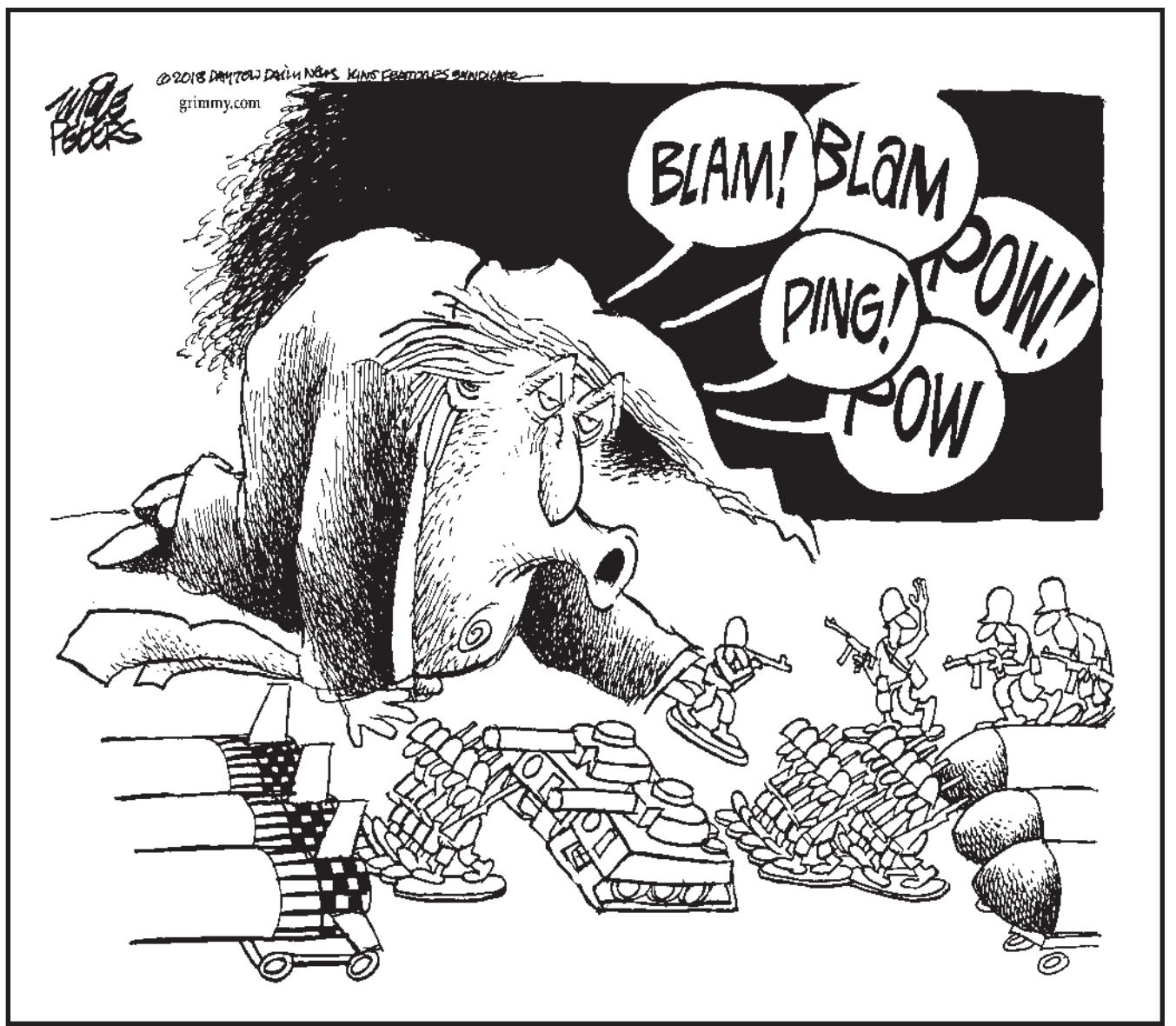


The bipartisan two-year budget deal enacted last week may lead to a federal government that functions without arbitrary, pointless showdowns for a refreshingly long period. But it's impossible to disagree with the senator who stalled the deal—Kentucky Republican Rand Paul—when he says, “The dirty little secret is that, by and large, both parties don’t care about the debt.” The U.S. government is expected to borrow more than \$1 trillion to pay for its budget deficit. In these booming economic times, it didn’t have the excuse it had during the Great Recession—that heavy government spending was necessary to head off a global depression.

Yes, the military and many domestic programs can use the increased funding coming their way as a result of the deal. Yes, disaster relief funding for communities from Puerto Rico to California will be very helpful. But our government should pay for these needs, not put the bills on the national credit card. Interest on the debt ate up 6.5 percent of the federal budget in fiscal 2017. With the national debt on track to go from \$20 trillion to \$30 trillion in 10 years, that percentage could triple. And if interest rates return to normal levels, this grim picture gets even worse. Debt addiction has consequences.

There’s a good chance our children and grandchildren will live in a diminished America as a result. That should matter far more than it appears to.

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Reminders that in China, life is a job

“Vita est laborum.”
That’s Latin for “Life is a job.” I didn’t learn that in school or even from a book. I learned that from Father Guido Sarducci.

For younger readers, that name may draw a blank. Father Guido wasn’t a real person. He was a fictional priest played by comedian and writer Don Novello, and was a regular guest on “Saturday Night Live” in the 1970s and ‘80s.

His most famous routine involved explaining how a secret letter discovered at the Vatican revealed the truth of what happens when you die. In the past, the church believed that a worthy soul would leave the body like a bubble at the bottom of a 7-Up bottle. The purer your soul, the higher into heaven you would float.

But this letter overturned all that. It turns out life is a job, and your wage is \$14.50 a day. When you die, you go through a long dark tunnel, and at the end of it there is God, waiting for you, and he pays you your money. But there’s a catch: He counts up all your sins, and you have to pay for them right there.

“Maybe you’ve heard that expression, ‘You have to pay for your sins?’” Sarducci would say. “That’s the truth. You do have to pay for your sins—in cash.”

Steal a bag of potato chips when you’re a little kid? Six bucks. Each time you lied? Ten dollars. And so on.

I always thought the bit was hilarious. But two stories in the news this week made me think of it—and neither is funny.

The first was a report out of the Vatican. Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo told a Spanish-language Catholic newspaper that “right now, those who are best implementing the social doctrine of the church are the Chinese.” In China, he said “the economy does not dominate politics, as happens in the United States, something Americans themselves would say.”

This came on the heels of the Vatican’s decision in December to order two underground Catholic bishops in China to step aside so government-approved bishops could take their place. The church, desperate to restore official relations with Beijing, is apparently willing to render unto the Caesars of the Politburo not only what is theirs, but what is God’s as well.

Sorondo’s comments were especially galling because they amounted to nothing less than bearing false witness. He went on at great length about how the Chinese “do not have shantytowns,” and Chinese young people “do not take drugs,” thanks to China’s “positive national conscience.”

By **JONAH GOLDBERG**
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.



It’s true that under China’s “state capitalism” hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty. It’s also true that hundreds of millions still live in crushing poverty.

The point is that Sorondo admires the state part of state capitalism. And the Chinese state’s effort to promote a “positive national conscience” is decidedly at odds with any sane definition of Christian conscience. China has a vast network of slave labor camps. The state decides how many children citizens can have. It has an internal passport system barring minorities from foreign travel that would be instantly recognizable as a modern Jim Crow law if other ethnicities were in play.

The second news item comes from a chilling article in The Atlantic by Anna Mitchell and Larry Diamond of the Hoover Institution. China is using cutting-edge artificial intelligence technology to construct a massive Orwellian surveillance apparatus to monitor every aspect of life. At home or work, everything Chinese citizens do on the internet is increasingly monitored and recorded. Outside, facial recognition software is empowering Big Brother to monitor where people go, whom they meet with and what they buy.

This will all be tallied into what Mitchell and Diamond call a “citizen score.” Even being friends with a “subversive” could lower your score, thus encouraging people to stay away from dissidents for fear of losing privileges. An internet privacy expert says, “What China is doing here is selectively breeding its population to select against the trait of critical, independent thinking.”

This citizen score sounds an awful lot like Father Guido’s “Vita est laborum”: Work for the state, get a good score. Fail and pay the price. But there are two key differences. First, Father Guido’s bit was about getting into heaven—which the atheist government of China doesn’t believe in. Second, Father Guido’s idea was funny. This isn’t.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A Veritable Valentines Salad

Contains love's ingredients with sonnet expedience

Valentine's Day Acrostic Awareness

(For Feb. 14th a fourteen-line sonnet on it)

please read with a smile, no frown, sideways and down:
Valentines! long ago with that name there were many
Around Italy, St. Valentina was martyred in Palestine
Lads and lassies look for love when they haven't any
Eventually red hearts came to symbolize a true love sign
Need for a day dedicated to lovers in love seemed obvious
Today greeting cards, chocolate, Cupid's arrows from above
In the Middle Ages folks thought birds paired in February
Now love birds and Cupid appear on cards and in statuary
Everyone seems to agree with the idea of romantic love
Sweets for the sweet, candy kisses, and giving of roses too
Devotion and romance dance a waltz all day long today
Around country and town lovers and would be lovers play
You may find love again or renewed before its all through.

Love and Fasting Never Lasting

I'll be your best friend forever and ever

that is until moments after the promise
when the piece of candy cures sugar fever
the giver needed to be a Doubting Thomas
Eternal love and friendship walk a rough road
as time and tides of change rearrange the truth
drugs and alcohol make rational minds explode
from early adolescence thru troubled adult youth
Perhaps its acceptance of all those superlatives
'best friends forever', 'the best', 'my only one'
heart hyperbole, no business of nosy relatives
as possessiveness and jealousy hurt everyone
Some try abstinence, some try sexual fasting
love keeps coming back because it is everlasting.

Innuendo Out and In Your Window

Love calls and knocks on your front door
you are floored by the insidious innuendo
and realize someones reputation was poor
throw caution to the wind out the window
Love lasting longer than a crush of 40 days

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

songs of 'wasted days and wasted nights'
going through an on again off again phase
with which your lover seems to find delights
Age creeps in on cat's feet while you sleep
white hair appears on your head and in bed
recalling lost love affairs, read em and weep
telling your lover that enough has been said
Valentine's Day then rolls around once again
happy to talk on the beach with your friend.

It's beginning to look a lot like the Gilded Age

In an impromptu speech to a crowd that gathered outside the White House on George Washington's birthday in 1866, President Andrew Johnson rambled on for more than an hour, referred to himself 210 times (a rate of about three times per minute), and said Republican lawmakers Charles Sumner and Thaddeus Stevens were at least as treasonous as the leaders of the just-defeated Confederacy.

A few days earlier, when a delegation of black leaders led by Frederick Douglass came to visit, Johnson had told them that poor whites, not blacks, had been the real victims of slavery in the South. After Douglass left, Johnson launched into an off-color, racist tirade about him to an aide.

Does any of this sound at least an eensy-weensy bit reminiscent of some recent presidential statements?

The political turmoil of the past couple of years has sent people grasping for all sorts of historical parallels. I've seen references to 1930s Germany, 1960s China, 2000s Russia—and of course, as always, ancient Rome. But if historical analogies are your thing, you can't do better right now than to spend some time learning about the U.S. from the end of the Civil War to the late 1890s.

Johnson's Donald Trump-like logorrhea was the least of it, really. The era that followed Johnson's departure from office in 1869, widely known as the Gilded Age, was a time of exploding economic inequality, stagnant living standards, growing concern about monopolies, devastating financial crises, multiple "wave" elections in which control of Congress suddenly shifted, two presidential elections in which the popular-vote winner came up short in the Electoral College, brazen political corruption, frequent pronouncements that the American republic was doomed, and seemingly unending turmoil over race and national identity.

That all sounds familiar! And even if you think it can be silly to fixate on historical parallels, the late 1800s seem worth knowing more about simply because so many of the great conflicts from then live on in altered but recognizable form today.

So it's pretty great timing that, along with that No. 1 bestselling Ron Chernow biography of Ulysses S. Grant, whose presidency ushered in the Gilded Age, there's also a gigantic new history of the entire era, "The Republic for Which It Stands: The United States During Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865-1896," by Richard White. It's where the above anecdotes about Andrew Johnson come from, along with another 871 pages of richly detailed history.

The book, which came out in September, is the latest installment in the Oxford History of the United States, now more than half a century in the making. The most famous book in the series, James M. McPherson's "Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era," had the advantage of a ready-made narrative trajectory. Authors of the volumes that aren't dominated by such an epochal event face a tougher challenge, which they're not allowed to get around by adopting a thematic focus. Charles Sellers of the University of California at Berkeley tried that for his history of

the period from 1815 to 1846 and had his book rejected for the series. Oxford University Press still published it as "The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846," but Daniel Walker Howe of the University of California at Los Angeles was commissioned to write a do-over, "What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848," which won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 2008.

White, a Stanford University historian who has previously written about the settling of the West and the transcontinental railroads, plays by the rules in "The Republic for Which It Stands," and at times that can be tough going. But he is such a wise, entertaining and often flat-out funny guide that a reader is rewarded again and again and again for sticking with him.

My single favorite moment in the book comes courtesy of William Dean Howells, the 19th-century novelist and Atlantic Monthly editor of whose letters White makes frequent and excellent use. The scene is the Hiram, Ohio, home of U.S. Representative and future President James A. Garfield, in 1870 or thereabouts:

It was evening, and Howells started telling Garfield a story about the New England poets—then already elderly—whom he published in the Atlantic. Garfield stopped him, ran out into his yard, and hallooed the neighbors sitting on their porches: "He's telling about Holmes, and Longfellow, and Lowell, and Whittier." The neighbors came and listened to Howells while the whippoorwills flew and sang in the evening air.

That lovely image of a calmer, gentler, more erudite time isn't allowed to linger for long, though. The Gilded Age—the name comes from a not-very-good 1873 novel by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner—was an era of great ugliness and wrenching change. In recent decades, it has been celebrated for its technological breakthroughs and business triumphs, which eventually did lead to great economic progress, but as White shows, it often didn't feel like progress to the people living through it. Real gross domestic product more than tripled from 1865 through 1896, according to the estimates at Measuring-Worth.com, but this was due mainly to population growth, which was driven by immigration flows far larger (as a share of population) than today's and birth rates that, while falling rapidly, were far higher than today's. Per capita real GDP actually grew more slowly from 1865 through 1896 than it did over the previous 31 years, and White writes that "by the most basic standards—life span, infant death rate, and bodily stature, which reflected childhood health and nutrition—American life grew worse over the course of the nineteenth century."

The good news is that things subsequently got a lot better. Scientific and technological breakthroughs played a big role: Physicians began to figure out how germs spread and how to stop them, electric streetcars and then automobiles solved big cities' epic horse-manure problems, refrigeration made it possible for non-rich urban dwellers to eat healthy food. But political changes were also crucial as the country shifted from rural and agrarian to urban and industrial. "Without increased governmen-

By JUSTIN FOX

Bloomberg View



Justin Fox is a Bloomberg View columnist. He was the editorial director of Harvard Business Review and wrote for Time, Fortune and American Banker. He is the author of The Myth of the Rational Market.






tal powers, cities—the center of the new industrial economy—threatened to become unlivable," writes White. Government's powers to build infrastructure and regulate certain behavior did in fact increase, fitfully during the Gilded Age and then with increased speed during the Progressive Era that followed. Not entirely coincidentally, the 20th century turned out much better for most Americans than the 19th.

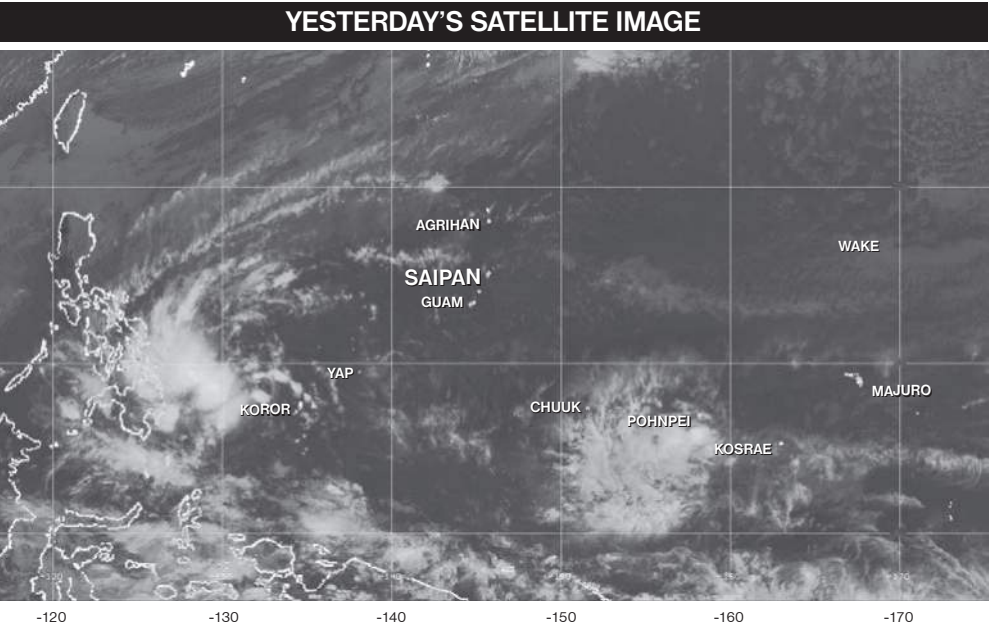
So that's the encouraging ending to the Gilded Age story. Much less encouraging is what happened to the people who were left behind. In the first decade after the Civil War, there seemed to be at least a chance that freed slaves would be given the opportunity to begin a belated pursuit of the American dream. Instead, white terrorists across the South murdered black political activists and, once they had seized control of state legislatures, pushed former slaves into economic conditions akin to servitude. Northerners and Westerners for the most part stood aside and let this happen because they had their own issues with immigrants and American Indians, and increasingly came to identify with Southern whites' efforts to suppress blacks' political voice.

California lawmakers, for example, fought against the Fourteenth Amendment because they worried that its guarantee of equal protection under the law might be applied to Chinese immigrants (the state finally got around to ratifying it in 1959). The Northeastern opinion-making elite of journalists, professors and Protestant preachers, which had for the most part opposed slavery, grew increasingly racist and nativist in its views. The one successful civil-rights campaign of the late 19th century was waged on behalf of corporations and their owners, who were protected from labor's attempts to organize workers, states' attempts to regulate the workplace and even Congress's attempts to tax them by an activist Supreme Court that looked beyond the Constitution to, in White's words, "enshrine a set of economic laws that no democratic government could overturn."

I'm not sure what exactly the arc of the moral universe was bending toward during the Gilded Age, but it doesn't seem to have been justice. This is something that, say, critics who decry anti-immigrant actions by the Trump administration as un-American tend to gloss over. An action or statement may be awful and yet still quite American. And it is possible to be alarmed by a modern turn of events while seeing something more home-grown than the Nazi seizure of power, the Bolshevik Revolution or the fall of Rome around the corner.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN				
TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°



PICTURE TIME: 8:38 AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Winds have slacked off as the pressure gradient normalizes. This is due in part to the shear line moving off to the east and in part to Tropical Storm Sanba moving farther away from Palau, which meant it was also moving farther away from the Marianas. This whole week looks relatively dry, especially the second half, from Wednesday through Saturday. Went ahead and worded this period partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. The 30 percent sky cover would, if it is still intact, end up reading mostly sunny when it comes into the near term. Main forecast problem has to do with winds Wednesday night and Thursday, and a corresponding bump upward in seas Thursday and Thursday night. Otherwise, a dry season trade- wind regime reigns supreme.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Showers	84° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Windy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Rain	77° / 66°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	43° / 19°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	68° / 63°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	79° / 69°
London	Rain	43° / 30°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Manila	Showers	84° / 75°
Melbourne	Windy	73° / 54°
Miami	Showers	79° / 72°
New York	Mostly Sunny	52° / 46°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	43° / 34°
Paris	Mixed	39° / 28°
Busan	Windy	55° / 36°
Rome	Showers	52° / 34°
Salem	Drizzle	59° / 49°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 44°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	45° / 21°
Tokyo	Sunny	54° / 45°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	41° / 35°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:24 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.08
7:25 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.72
12:48 PM	LOW TIDE	1.12
5:42 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.77

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:42 AM	6:19 PM
Wednesday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:41 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	6:21 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:32 am	4:10 pm	-
Wednesday	5:19 am	5:00 pm	-
Thursday	6:04 am	5:50 pm	-
Friday	6:47 am	6:40 pm	-
Saturday	7:29 am	7:31 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017			
DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS	
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)		GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN	
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)		GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)	
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)		ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN	
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)		NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN	
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)		BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN	
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)		SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN	
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)		SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN	
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)		HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN	
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)		GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN	
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)		BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN	
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)		MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN	
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)		HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN	
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN TO ROTA		ROTA TO SAIPAN	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM		GUAM TO ROTA	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN		TINIAN TO SAIPAN	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



Alex's review of the show: "It was certainly a great performance, with mind bending tricks. It seemed that the world suddenly changed before my eyes."

Magic, Life Rocks!

An Interview with Leon Etienne

By ALEX MEGINO
TANMS STUDENT, 8TH GRADE



Was being a magician your very first choice as a kid?

Being a Magician was probably my 3rd or 4th choice as a kid. I grew up around sports, so initially I wanted to be an

athlete. I played baseball, ice hockey, American football, and basketball. I also had interest in being a firefighter at one point. I started doing magic shows at 12 years old but kept very busy with other activities and sports. Magic took over around the time when I was 16. I started seriously considering it as a career when I turned 17.

Is magic a hard hobby?

Not at all. Magic is so much fun to pursue as a hobby. Everyone should know a good magic trick or two. There are some very simple, very impressive magic tricks people can learn and perform at any social gathering or at work. There are magic clubs and organizations all over the world,

like the International Brotherhood of Magician's. Most of its members are hobbyists. That being said, there are many different levels of magic and skill sets that separate most hobbyists from professionals. I have also met some pretty amazing hobbyists that are better than some professionals.

If anyone wants to learn some simple magic tricks, go to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library here on Saipan. Check out the new magic books they just received that I recommended.

What are the most important qualities to be a magician?

There is a long list, but one of the most important is the



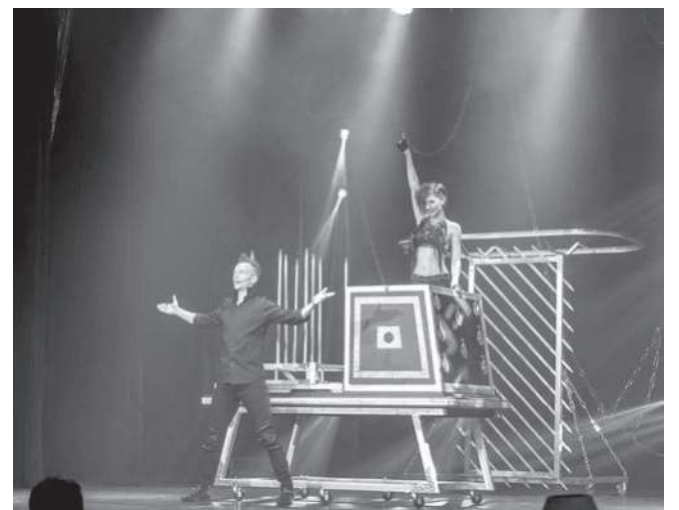
discipline to practice a certain trick or secret slight of hand move over and over until it is perfect. Public speaking skills are a must, unless your doing a silent act, but even then you need a strong personality and stage presence. Having a strong presentation to go with your tricks is another one of the biggest things. Most people get so caught up in the secrets of the tricks, but what really matters is what you do with those secrets. In the big picture, the secrets really don't matter. They are just a means to an end.

What is your most prized magic trick?

I have several props and mementos from some of my mentors who have passed away. Some of which we built with our own hands and spent weeks or months working on to get just right. Those are near and dear to my heart. I have several old magic tricks that are very valuable and have a fantastic history connected with them. Like everything else these days, they just don't make stuff the way they used to.

How often do you tell others the basis of your magic?

Like reveling secrets? Never! It's the number one rule of magic. Never reveal your secrets. That being said, I teach beginner magic classes all the



time. It's the only way to help ensure there will be another generation of magicians to perform when I am dead and gone. To keep the art alive. We will be doing more magic camps at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library this March. Once I teach someone basic magic and I see they have a real interest in magic and respect the art form, then I provide more resources like better tricks, advice, performance suggestions, etc.

What trick are you practicing right now?

Currently I'm not practicing any particular trick. I am attempting to perfect a technique that will allow me to perform lots of tricks. That is more my focus these days. When you first get into magic, justifiably so, you are excited about all the special gimmicks that make tricks work. Then you realize to do the really awesome stuff and be a well-rounded performer you need to develop certain skills and techniques that will allow you to do anything you want. Most of the toys and gimmicks get left behind.

Do you currently have any apprentices?

Just like people did for me, I have been lucky enough to help out several young performers over the last few years. On island I'm currently working with an extremely talented young man named Neil Fama. We recently put an

act together in December that won him the 2017 CNMI's Got Talent. He won the entire competition and the Governors choice award!

Are young generations really into magic?

Due to the recent explosion of magic shows on TV, the internet and social media, I think the art of magic is experiencing one of its most popular times in its entire history. Everyone is exposed to magic, young and old. What you should know is no matter how much magic you watch on TV, YouTube, Facebook or Instagram nothing replaces seeing a live magic show in person! Nothing! Magic is an art form that is meant to be experienced live in person with the magic happening right in front of your face.

How long will you be displaying your magic?

Magic has been my only job. It has been 21 years since my first show. It is all I have ever done and all I ever want to do. It has been an amazing 21 years. Lets see how the next 21 years go.

Do you believe in Magic?

I do believe in Magic! Magic is all around us every single day of our lives. Just look out a window here on Saipan or pull over on Beach Road during sunset and you'll see the magic. Life is magic! Magic Rocks, Life Rocks!



Mango Tree

By AUSTIN DIAZ

Mangoes on trees so sweet and ripe,
I wish I could eat it every night.
Mango season is on my birthday,
It reminds me back of the day.

San Roque is the best place to plant,
Every time I plant, I plant next to the sand.
Whenever I see my friends' face,
I can smell the mangos' sweet taste.

I like to live and plant in Capitol Hill,
And always eat a mango as a sweet meal,
Whenever I want to see if the mango
grows
My mom said it was time to go.

Mangoes on trees are sweet and ripe,
You can eat it with your hands or any
type.
Every time I eat mangoes,
It reminds me of how sweet my family is.

BLITZ PROFILE



Inspiration of GTC's 2nd "B" Grade, Mrs. Patricia Mūna

Date of Birth -March 17
Place of Birth -Saipan
Zodiac Sign -Pisces
Occupation -Teacher
Hobby -Hang out with family
Favorite Season - Winter
Favorite Color -Blue
Favorite Food -Chamorro Local food

Favorite Fruit -Mango
Favorite Site/Location -The beach
Favorite Animal -Dolphin
Favorite Sport -Volley ball
Favorite Book -Huckleberry Finn
Favorite Movie -TMNT
Favorite Actor - Keanu Reeves
Favorite Composer - Michael Jackson
Favorite Poem -Where THe Sidewalk Ends

If not a teacher who would you be? Psycholo-
gist
If learning a new language, which one would
you learn? Japanese
If an extra talent to have, which one would
you want? Painting

CHAMORRO RECIPES

"COCONUT MACAROONS"

By flood

Whip 1/2 cup egg whites until
they are very stiff.
Fold in
1/2 teaspoon vanilla mixed in
1 cup white sugar
2 1/2 cups shredded coconut
Drop spoonfuls on a greased
cookie sheet and bake in
325-degree oven for about 15
minutes.



Happy Valentine's Day



"The Magic of Theater"

Gregorio Camacho Elementary and Tanapag Middle School students were starring for the first time in a Creative Theater Program introduced by Ms. Ekaterina Megino, an artistic director from Las Vegas. The Premier was held at Aqua Resort Club, Saipan, on December 26th.

Theatrical action transferred its audiences into the two most loved classical pieces, "The Nutcracker" and "Romeo & Juliet". The shows were enhanced with music of Peter Tchaikovsky, Johann Bach, Henrik Ibsen, Léo Delibes, Maurice Ravel and others, including special ef-

fects and surprising twists in interpretation.

Little stars from GTC wowed the audience with multitasking performance, which involved elements of musical acting, declamation, dancing, acrobatics, dual role appearances and quick act changes.

TANMS performers likewise were pleasing its spectators by artfully moving from drama to comedy, from Shakespearean heroes to fictional out of space characters added as the connectors of times.

Special thanks to everyone who helped and contributed to making this performance a fabulous success!

Next project of the program this year is the revival of the "Marianas Legends".



Actors of the Creative Theater for Kids Program:

Lena Igitol Ngiraked
 Spencer Igitol Ngiraked
 Leala Igitol Ngiraked
 Keesha Lucas
 Pumai Castro
 Elizabeth Babauta
 Jerome Manzon
 Lyticia Sanchez
 Raybiana Sablan
 Karmel Lucas
 Animu Otiwii
 Hayden Norita
 Ha'ani Salas
 Lyandra Igitol Ngiraked
 Olivia Camacho
 Francesca Maduqu
 Kristan Isip
 Bea Blanco
 Magdalene Santos
 Erin Kim
 Jian Carlo Alvarez
 Marquez
 Kyla Cruzat
 Divine Germinaro
 Leah Halstead
 Lei'evolyn Ruak
 Shannea Dino
 Bernalie Dafrow

Business

Trump budget plan already outdated after budget deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a twist on Washington's truism about presidential budgets being D.O.A., President Donald Trump's 2019 fiscal plan due Monday is dead even before arrival.

The original plan was for Trump's new budget to slash domestic agencies even further than last year's proposal, but instead it will land in Congress three days after he signed a two-year spending agreement that wholly rewrites both last year's budget and the one to be released Monday.

In a preview of the 2019 budget, the White House on Sunday focused on Trump's \$1.5 trillion plan for the nation's crumbling infrastructure. He also will ask for a \$13 billion increase over two years for opioid prevention, treatment and long-term recovery. A request of \$23 billion for border security, including \$18

billion for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and money for more detention beds for detained immigrants, is part of the budget, too.

Trump's latest submission was completed before the budget pact delivered the nearly \$300 billion increase above prior "caps" on spending. The \$4 trillion-plus 2019 budget was originally designed to double down on last year's proposals to slash foreign aid, the Environmental Protection Agency, home heating assistance and other nondefense programs funded by Congress each year.

"A lot of presidents' budgets are ignored. But I would expect this one to be completely irrelevant and totally ignored," said Jason Furman, a top economic adviser to President Barack Obama. "In fact, Congress passed a law week that basically undid the budget be-

fore it was even submitted."

Trump would again spare Social Security retirement benefits and Medicare as he promised during the 2016 campaign. And while his plan would reprise last year's attempt to scuttle the "Obamacare" health law and sharply cut back the Medicaid program for the elderly, poor and disabled, Trump's allies on Capitol Hill have signaled there's no interest in tackling hot-button health issues during an election year.

Instead, the new budget deal and last year's tax cuts herald the return of trillion dollar-plus deficits. Last year, Trump's budget predicted a \$526 billion budget deficit for the 2019 fiscal year starting Oct. 1; instead, it's set to exceed \$1 trillion once the cost of the new spending pact and the tax cuts are added to Congressional Budget Office projections.

Re-entering the job market is a full-time job

Q: At this point in my career, I am no longer interested in climbing the corporate ladder. I would prefer to find a stable support role with a predictable schedule. Because this isn't possible with my current employer, I have decided to look elsewhere.

Having been out of the job market for many years, I decided to start by talking with a recruiter. Although he made big promises, I couldn't get in touch with him when I tried to follow up. I don't understand why he never got me any interviews.

Since the recruiter didn't work out, I'm not sure what my next step should be. Do you have any advice?

A: Starting a job search can be both frightening and frustrating, especially after years of comfortable employment. So to point you in a productive direction, let's review a few lessons from Job Search 101.

First, finding a job is a job in itself. Applicants often hope that contacting recruiters or submitting online applications will bring the process to a hasty conclusion. But while both of these steps are perfectly appropriate, the real key to success is mastering the basic skills of networking, resume-writing and interviewing.

Second, job search is a sequential process, which makes it easier to diagnose difficulties. If you don't have enough job leads, then you

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



need to do more networking. If job leads don't produce interviews, consider strengthening your resume. And if interviews fail to generate offers, your interviewing skills may be weak.

Third, recruiters work for employers, not applicants. Their customers are the managers who pay them to fill positions, so finding you a job is not their main goal. Recruiters can be useful, but keep your expectations realistic. And avoid those "placement experts" who want you to pay them for job leads.

Finally, be sure to review your online presence, because employers are likely to do so. A weird LinkedIn profile, angry political rant or crude Facebook photo could greatly reduce your odds of being hired.

Q: In leadership team meetings, the supervisors who work for me are very disrespectful. One arrives late with no explanation or apology, another constantly interrupts people, and the third keeps working on her

laptop. When I talk with them one-on-one, they are punctual, polite and productive, so I am completely baffled by their behavior in meetings. What should I do about this?

A: You may be "completely baffled" by your staff's behavior, but I am completely baffled by your willingness to tolerate it. As their manager, you have total control of this situation, yet you have done nothing to solve the problem. So it's time for you to step up.

For your next leadership meeting, put a discussion of respectful behavior on the agenda. Establish appropriate standards and post these ground rules in the conference room. To deal with individual issues, have a private meeting with each supervisor and set objectives for change.

Should relapses occur in the future, immediately remind offenders of the ground rules. But if your group improves, provide a tangible reward by bringing some goodies to the next meeting.

Nation

AMID ELECTION PRESSURES Congress takes on immigration issue

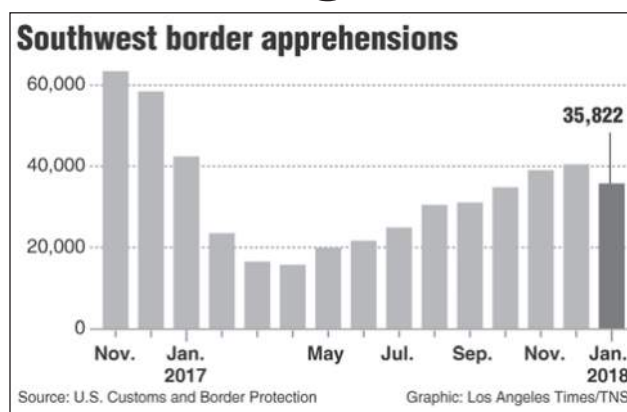
WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate begins a rare, open-ended debate on immigration and the fate of the "Dreamer" immigrants on Monday, and Republican senators say they'll introduce President Donald Trump's plan. Though his proposal has no chance of passage, Trump may be the most influential voice in the conversation.

If the aim is to pass a legislative solution, Trump will be a crucial and, at times, complicating player. His day-to-day turnabouts on the issues have confounded Democrats and Republicans and led some to urge the White House to minimize his role in the debate for fear he'll say something that undermines the effort.

Yet his ultimate support will be vital if Congress is to overcome election-year pressures against compromise. No Senate deal is likely to see the light of day in the more conservative House without the president's blessing and promise to sell compromise to his hard-line base.

Trump, thus far, has balked on that front.

"The Tuesday Trump versus the Thursday Trump, after the base gets to him," is how Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a proponent of compromise, describes the president and the impact conservative vot-



ers and his hard-right advisers have on him. "I don't know how far he'll go, but I do think he'd like to fix it."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., scheduled an initial procedural vote for Monday evening to commence debate. It is expected to succeed easily, and then the Senate will sort through proposals, perhaps for weeks.

Democrats and some Republicans say they want to help the "Dreamers," young immigrants who have lived in the U.S. illegally since they were children and have only temporarily been protected from deportation by an Obama-era program. Trump has said he wants to aid them and has even proposed a path to citizenship for 1.8 million, but in exchange wants \$25 billion for his proposed U.S.-Mexico border wall plus significant curbs to legal immi-

gration.

McConnell agreed to the open-ended debate, a Senate rarity in recent years, after Democrats agreed to vote to end a three-day government shutdown they'd forced over the issue. They'd initially demanded a deal toward helping Dreamers, not a simple promise of votes.

To prevail, any plan will need 60 votes, meaning substantial support from both parties is mandatory. Republicans control the chamber 51-49 but GOP Sen. John McCain of Arizona has been home for weeks battling brain cancer.

Seven GOP senators said late Sunday that they will introduce Trump's framework, which they called a reasonable compromise that has White House backing. The group includes Sens. Tom Cotton of Arkansas, John Cornyn of Texas and Iowa's Charles Grassley.

States look to lower drug costs, consider Canadian imports

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—Lawmakers in more than two-thirds of the states are considering ways to reduce prescription drug costs, including importing them from Canada, as they strive to balance budgets without knowing for sure what their government's share of the tab will be.

A total of 87 bills in 34 states of all political stripes seek to save money on prescription drugs, according to the nonpartisan National Academy for State Health Policy. Six of those states are considering bills that would allow drugs to be imported from Canada, where they cost an average 30 percent less than in the United States.

One is liberal Vermont, where lawmakers have revived a nearly 2-decade old proposal. Conservative Utah is considering a similar proposal. Maryland is looking at creating a commission that would regulate drug costs.

"States have to balance budgets," said Trish Riley, executive director of the

health policy academy, based in Portland, Maine. "You budget a certain amount of money for drugs in a state employee health program or a Medicaid program, and you're surprised by the mid-year increases that are unpredictable and huge."

The stakes are high not only for state governments, government employees and Medicaid recipients, but also for anyone else paying for prescription drugs. The federal government does not control drug prices, which are set by drug companies and are subject to costs and competition, while Medicaid negotiates cheaper drugs for low-income Americans.

But one hope is that importing drugs can put downward pressure on domestic costs for all, said Utah state Rep. Norm Thurston, a Republican who introduced a drug-import bill in his state.

"It's not a liberal-conservative thing," he said. "It's not a Democrat-Republican thing." Of the pharmaceu-

tical industry, he said, "it makes them compete against themselves."

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, a trade group for drugmakers, argues the proposals would threaten people's health because quality could not be assured.

Safety has nothing to do with the potential for tainted drugs from Canada, said Thurston, whose bill could be debated by the Utah House on Monday.

"The No. 1 threat to patient safety related to prescription drugs in our state is that the drugs are so expensive that people don't take them," Thurston said. "We don't have any widespread problem in our state with counterfeit drugs."

Allowing patients to buy medication from other countries with strict drug standards, such as Canada, is an idea that has long been floated in Washington by lawmakers of both parties. But each time, it has been blocked by the powerful drug lobby.

Asia

Kim's sister ends Olympic visit

GANGNEUNG, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister headed home Sunday night after a whirlwind three days in South Korea, where she sat among world dignitaries at the Olympics and tossed a diplomatic offer to the South aimed at ending seven decades of hostility.

Kim Yo Jong and the rest of the North Korean delegation departed for Pyongyang on her brother's private jet, a day after they delivered his hopes for a summit with

» **Leaving South to mull offer**

South Korean President Moon Jae-in during a lunch at Seoul's presidential palace. It was a sharp, but possibly fleeting, contrast with many months of rising tensions connected to the North's continued development of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.

They capped their final day in South Korea by joining Moon at a Seoul concert given by a visiting North Korean art troupe led by the head of the immensely popular Moranbong band, whose young female members are hand-picked by Kim Jong Un.

Accepting North Korea's demand to transport more than 100 members of the art troupe by sea, South Korea treated the Mangyong-bong-92 ferry as an exemption to the maritime sanctions it imposed on the North, a controversial move amid concerns that the North is trying to use the Olympics to poke holes in international sanctions.

South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon hosted the North Koreans for lunch Sunday before Moon's chief of staff, Im Jong-seok, hosted them for dinner ahead of the concert.

Kim Yo Jong, 30, is an increasingly prominent figure in her brother's government and the first member of the North's ruling family to visit the South since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. The North Korean delegation also included the country's 90-year-old head of state, Kim Yong Nam.

In dispatching the highest level of government officials the North has ever sent to the



Kim

South, Kim Jong Un revealed a sense of urgency to break out of deep diplomatic isolation in the face of toughening sanctions over his nuclear program, analysts say.

"Honestly, I didn't know I would come here so suddenly. I thought things would be strange and very different, but I found a lot of things being similar," Kim said while proposing a toast at Sunday's dinner, according to Moon's office. "Here's to hoping that we could see the pleasant people (of the South) again in Pyeongchang and bring closer the future where we are one again."

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Sunday rejected any suggestion that even a temporary warming of relations between the North and South could drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington.

It's too early to say, Mattis said, "if using the Olympics in a way to reduce tension—if that's going to have any traction once the Olympics are over. We can't say right now."

among the dead and that 15 people were injured. He says the bus left from the Baluchistan provincial capital of Quetta on Saturday night. Deadly road accidents are common in Pakistan, mainly because of bad road infrastructure and reckless driving, including disregard for traffic regulations and safety standards.

Police: Man with knife kills 1, injures 12 at Beijing mall

BEIJING (AP)—A 35-year-old man with a personal grievance attacked 13 people with a knife in a busy shopping mall in Beijing on Sunday, killing one, police said. A woman died from her injuries after being sent to a hospital, the city's Public Security Bureau said in a brief statement on its official microblog page. The 12 other victims in the attack suffered injuries that were not life-threatening, it said. Police provided only the alleged assailant's surname, Zhu, and said he confessed to the authorities that he carried out the attack at Joy City, a mall in Beijing's Xidan district, to "vent his personal discontent." Video clips posted on Chinese social media sites showed mall patrons fleeing from what was described as a restaurant on the sixth story. One clip showed

a man staggering out, apparently hurt from the attack, dripping blood on the floor as a security guard rushed to help him. Other clips showed people being rushed away on gurneys and a large number of uniformed police in the mall.

'Dirty dancing' Westerners deported from Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A Cambodian court official says seven Westerners arrested last month for allegedly posting pornographic photos on social media of themselves engaged in sexually suggestive dancing have been deported. Yim Srang, a court spokesman in the northwestern province of Siem Reap, said Monday that the court decided that the seven—who were freed on bail last week—could no longer stay in Cambodia. Ten young Westerners—five from the United Kingdom, two from Canada, and one each from Norway, the Netherlands and New Zealand—were detained when police raided a party at a rented villa in Siem Reap town and found people who said they had been "dancing pornographically" and offended Cambodian standards of morality. Three of the 10 considered organizers of the event were denied bail.

World

Russian airliner crashes killing 71

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian airliner that had just taken off from the country's second-busiest airport crashed Sunday, killing all 71 people aboard and scattering jagged chunks of wreckage across a snowy field outside Moscow. The pilots of the An-148 regional jet did not report any problems before the twin-engine aircraft plunged into the field about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Domodedovo Airport, authorities said.

The Saratov Airlines flight disappeared from radar just minutes after departure for the city of Orsk, some 1,500 kilometers (1,000 miles) to the southeast.

Transport Minister Maxim Sokolov confirmed that there were no survivors.

The 65 passengers ranged in age from 5 to 79, according to a list posted by the Russian Emergencies Ministry, which did not give their nationalities. Six crew members were also aboard.

Emergency workers combed through the field while investigators descended on the airport to search for clues to what brought the jet down. One of the flight recorders was recovered, Russian news reports said, but it was not immediately clear if it was the data or voice recorder.



AP
Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations employees work at the scene of a AN-148 plane crash in Stepanovskoye village, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from the Domodedovo airport, Russia, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018.

The airport has been the focus of security concerns in the past. Security lapses came under sharp criticism in 2004, after Chechen suicide bombers destroyed two airliners that took off from the airport on the same evening, killing a total of 90 people. A 2011 bombing in the arrivals area killed 37 people.

Investigators also conducted a search at the airline's main office in Saratov, reports said.

In Washington, The Trump administration has expressed sympathy for the families of the 71 people killed in the crash. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the U.S. "is

deeply saddened by the tragic deaths of those on board Saratov Airlines Flight 703."

Russia's Investigative Committee said all possible causes were being considered. Some reports suggested there were questions about whether the plane had been properly de-iced. Moderate snow was falling in much of Moscow at the time of the crash.

Airline spokeswoman Elena Voronova told the state news agency RIA Novosti that one of the pilots had more than 5,000 hours of flying time, 2,800 of them in an An-148. The other pilot had 812 hours of experience, largely in that model plane.

Israeli PM: Airstrikes dealt 'severe blows' to Iran, Syria

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister said Sunday his country delivered "severe blows" to Iranian and Syrian forces and vowed to take further action against its adversaries following the most serious Israeli engagement in Syria since the war there erupted almost seven years ago.

Benjamin Netanyahu's tough words to his Cabinet came a day after Israel carried out a wave of airstrikes in Syria. Israel ordered the airstrikes after it intercepted an Iranian drone that had infiltrated its airspace, and an Israeli F-16 was downed upon its return from Syria.

"Yesterday we dealt severe blows to the Iranian and Syrian forces," Netanyahu said. "We made it unequivocally clear to everyone that our rules of action have not changed one bit. We will continue to strike at every attempt to strike at us. This has been our policy and it will remain our policy."

Israel has tried to stay on the sidelines since civil war broke out in neighboring Syria in 2011, though it

has periodically carried out airstrikes against suspected weapons shipments believed to be headed for Lebanese Hezbollah, the Iranian and Syrian-allied militant group. But as the Syrian war winds down, Israeli officials have voiced increasing alarm that Iran and its Shiite allies are establishing a permanent presence in Syria that could turn its aim toward Israel.

Israeli leaders said the airstrikes sent a clear message to Iran.

"We do not just talk, we act," said Cabinet Minister Yoav Galant, a former Israeli deputy chief of staff and member of Netanyahu's Security Cabinet.

"I think that also the Syrians now understand well that the fact that they are hosting the Iranians on Syrian soil harms them," he told The Associated Press.

Saturday's airstrikes marked the toughest Israeli aerial assault in Syria in decades.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war in Syria through a network of activists on the ground, said Sunday

that at least six Syrian troops and allied militiamen were killed in the airstrikes. The six included Syrian and non-Syrian allied troops, the Britain-based Observatory said.

"They, and we, know what we hit and it will take them some time for them to digest, understand and ask how Israel knew how to hit those sites," Israel's Intelligence Minister Israel Katz told the Army Radio station. "These were concealed sites and we have intelligence agencies and the ability to know everything that is going on there and yesterday we proved that."

In Saturday's attacks, the Israeli jets came under heavy Syrian anti-aircraft fire and the pilots of one of the F-16s had to eject before the plane crashed in northern Israel. One pilot was seriously wounded and the other one lightly.

Israel would not confirm whether its aircraft was shot down by enemy fire, which would mark the first such instance for Israel since 1982, when it was fighting a war in neighboring Lebanon.

ASIAN BRIEFS

6 dead in militant attack on Indian army base in Kashmir

JAMMU, India (AP)—Shooting between soldiers and militants holed up inside an army camp in Indian-controlled Kashmir has left at least five soldiers and one civilian dead, officials said Sunday, the second day of the battle. The fighting, which began at dawn Saturday when the militants stormed the Sunjuwan army base on the outskirts of the city of Jammu, continued into Sunday afternoon, said the region's top police official, S.P. Vaid. At least 11 people were injured. Security forces were sweeping through the camp slowly, since soldiers and their families live there, Vaid said. It was unclear how many militants were involved in the attack.

Bus plunges into ditch in southwestern Pakistan; 8 killed

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani official says a passenger bus bound for the city of Karachi has skidded off a road and plunged into a ditch in southwestern Pakistan, killing eight people. Salah Uddin, an official in Mastung district, says the bus was speeding in rainy conditions. He says two women and three children

Overdrive

Review: 2018 Hyundai Sonata competes on value

By **ROBERT DUFFER**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

New cars are special. Baked into that new car smell is a feeling of excitement. Why else would we pay thousands of dollars more for something that loses 10 percent of its value the first time we use it? Compared with the redesigned Honda Accord and Toyota Camry, the refreshed Hyundai Sonata fails to excite, even in its top-of-the-line Limited trim.

That doesn't mean the midsize sedan is bad. In fact, it is all-around good in terms of performance, spaciousness, safety, fuel economy and all those other functional items important to car shoppers. But car sales are made — and marketing departments built — on something that often counters logic: emotion.

The feeling of the revised

Sonata is of exceptional value without sacrificing quality. This stokes wallets more than hearts, which makes for a compelling emotion all its own: the deal. The top-of-the-line Limited trim is priced \$3,000 to \$4,000 less than the similarly equipped but less stylish 2018 Honda Accord Touring and 2018 Toyota Camry XSE.

The last generation Sonata from 2011 to 2014 might have more to do with the flat feeling of this Sonata. It made the competitors take notice and reconsider the need for both dull design and a V-6 engine.

While the 2018 Sonata is technically a midcycle refresh, it is about as close to a redesign as you can get without changing engines. The only change under the revised chiseled hood is pairing the 245-horsepower turbocharged four-cylinder engine



TNS

The 2018 Sonata 2.0T is an all-around good choice in terms of performance, spaciousness, safety, fuel economy and all those other functional items important to car shoppers.

to a more efficient eight-speed transmission.

The changes are mostly cosmetic, though significant, in an attempt to keep pace with Accord and Camry. The grille is a broader mesh honeycomb

pattern on the sporting 2.0T Limited trim. The headlights start narrow and wrap around the side, and the daytime running lights rise up from the lower bumper toward the rear, so everything appears to flow back, which is then complemented by wrap-around taillights tapering to the revised rear.

It looks sharper than the 2015, matching the refined suspension with more stiffness

and more direct steering.

It's snappy off the line with no lag and 260 pound-feet of torque available at just 1,350 rpm. Output is a tad shy of the 2-liter turbo Accord, and V-6 Camry XSE, yet it's noticeably slower. It feels more nimble in turns than the Camry, but not as powerful. The Accord is the benchmark for the midsize sedan, and at 27 mpg combined it beats the Camry

and Sonata — even with the eight-speed — by 1 mpg.

On the inside the controls are easy to use and intuitive, the advanced safety assist systems aren't obtrusive, and the overall layout is sleeker and sharper.

It's everything a refreshed sedan should be. Its most exciting feature is the price, which is the most compelling factor for many new car shoppers. That's special enough.

NUTS & BOLTS

2018 Hyundai Sonata Limited 2.0T at a glance

- Vehicle type: midsize sedan
- Base price: \$32,450
- As tested: \$32,575 (excluding \$885 destination)
- Mpg: 23 city, 32 highway
- Engine: 245-horsepower 2-liter turbocharged four-cylinder
- Transmission: 8-speed automatic
- Parting shot: You can get a deal.

UNDER THE HOOD:

What's up with Nissan Rogue heating problems

Q. I have a 2015 Nissan Rogue, which I love. I also have no problems with my dealer in Dubuque. The heater went out on my Rogue on one of the coldest days of the year. It would only blow cold air. The vehicle is still under warranty and was repaired, and my dealer got me a rental while it was being repaired. My question is this: How many repairs on this known problem have to happen to constitute a recall on the defect? I did go online, and apparently this is a known problem with this year's model. My Rogue, luckily, was still under warranty. What if this would have happened next year when the warranty had expired? It would have cost me approximately \$1,600 dollars for the repairs. This would have made me very angry, because the company is aware of the problem and did not recall the problem.

I did contact Nissan customer service with this question, and basically I got the run-around. I and other 2015 Rogue owners would appreciate the information.

— Susan

A. You are correct that heater/AC issues are also complained about by other Rogue owners in the 2014-2017 range. In cold weather areas this can be a safety issue due to inadequate windshield defrosting. When a certain number of complaints and/or warranty reimbursements occur for a given problem a car company will likely engineer

By **BRAD BERGHOLDT**
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.



a correction and issue a technical service bulletin spelling out how to implement the solution. They may also take a variety of actions ranging from providing warranty repairs to a "squeaky wheel" out-of-warranty assistance/policy adjustment, to a voluntary customer satisfaction campaign, or perhaps finally a NHTSA mandated safety recall.

Nissan released several technical service bulletins for improper heating/ventilation performance, including incorrect temperature output and/or air delivery location for vehicles in your range. The most recent — #NTB15-045E, issued August 4, 2017 — indicates certain vehicles equipped with the manual HVAC system might benefit from replacement of the "front air control unit."

I am by no means a legal expert but hope to offer a few thoughts vehicle owners might find useful. If the dealer is unable to provide the necessary correction for a problem — or, in this case, a seeming pattern failure that might arise after the warranty period — contact the manufacturer's customer service folks and start off nice,

telling of your family history and overall satisfaction with that brand. Gently make them aware that the web is indicating more than occasional consumer concern of the issue.

Be sure to obtain written documentation of your concerns and/or repair attempts both in and out of warranty. Ask for assistance and obtain their response in writing. If you are shot down for an out-of-warranty policy adjustment, you might then join the club of folks complaining about the issue at www.carcomplaints.com, and in this case perhaps www.nissanproblems.com.

It also wouldn't hurt to get your nose into various owners' forums to see how others may be dealing with the same concern (take this info with a grain of salt). I think the more widespread the issue becomes known, the more likely a car company will take helpful action.

If it's a potential safety issue one can go to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website (use www.safercar.gov and "vehicle owners"). You can search for recalls, check for active investigations, and report a possible safety problem.

FIFTH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

† **Patricia Taitano Cabrera Reyes**

Lovingly known as "Patsy"



We, the family would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 5th year death anniversary of the passage of our beloved unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be celebrated at San Vicente Church beginning on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 6:00PM. Nightly Rosary will be said at 7:00PM at the family residence in Dandan.

On the final day, Friday, February 23, 2018. Mass will be at 6:00PM at San Vicente Church followed by the Holy Rosary. Dinner will be served at the family residence in Dandan.

Your prayers, thoughts, and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan Oloomway

Antonio "Toi" A. Reyes, Children and Families

Life & Style

NBC apologizes to South Koreans for analyst's remark

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC has apologized to South Koreans for an on-air remark by an analyst that cited Japan as an example that has been important to the country's own transformation.

The remark was made by analyst Joshua Cooper Ramo during NBC's coverage of Friday's opening ceremony. He was noting the significance of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit.

"Every Korean will tell you that Japan is a cultural and technical and economic example that has been so important to their own transformation," Ramo said.

An online petition quickly circulated demanding an apology, and NBC did on its NBCSN cable network Saturday and formally to the Pyeongchang Olympic organizing committee.

Japan occupied Korea from

1910 to 1945. Petitioners said anyone familiar with Japanese treatment of Koreans during that time would be deeply hurt by Ramo's remark. They also criticized the accuracy of giving Japan credit for South Korea's resurgence.

The petition had more than 10,000 supporters on Sunday.

"We believe that staying silent is not an appropriate response to such ignorant, insensitive, and harmful in-

formation that defies the very spirit of peace, harmony, and human dignity of the Olympics," it said.

NBC said in a statement Sunday it was gratified that local Olympic officials accepted

the apology. The network said that South Korea and its Olympic organizers have been "exceptional hosts in every way."

Ramo, a former journalist at Time magazine, is co-CEO at Kissinger Associates and

had been hired temporarily by NBC to bring historical context to its coverage. The network said his assignment ended with the opening ceremony. It disputed reports that Ramo had been fired.

Prince Harry, Meghan Markle offer details on the big day

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry and fiancée American actress Meghan Markle have released more details about their May 19 wedding, revealing that the event will include a carriage ride through Windsor so they can share the big day with the public.

The couple will marry at noon in St. George's Chapel, the 15th century church on the grounds of Windsor Castle that has long been the backdrop of choice for royal occasions. Harry's grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, gave permission for use of the venue and will attend the wedding.

Kensington Palace said in a statement that the couple is "hugely grateful" for the many good wishes they have received and they hope the carriage ride will give the general public a chance to take part.

"They hope this short journey will provide an opportunity for more people to come together around Windsor and to enjoy the atmosphere of this special day," the palace said.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby is to marry the

couple. A reception for the couple and guests from the congregation will be held in St. George's Hall after the carriage ride.

Prince Charles, the father of the groom, will give a private evening reception for the couple, close friends and family at an undisclosed location.



AP
In this file photo dated Monday Nov. 27, 2017, Britain's Prince Harry and his fiancée Meghan Markle pose for photographers in the grounds of Kensington Palace in London, following the announcement of their engagement.

'Fifty Shades Freed' commands \$38.8M to top charts

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Newcomers like "Fifty Shades Freed," "Peter Rabbit" and "The 15:17 to Paris" breathed some fresh life into a marketplace that has for weeks been dominated by "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," "The Greatest Showman" and various Oscar contenders. But it's all just setting the stage for "Black Panther," which opens next week.

"Fifty Shades Freed" managed to take the top spot on the charts in North American theaters. Universal Pictures estimated Sunday that the final chapter in the Christian Grey and Anastasia Steele saga earned \$38.8 million over the weekend — down significantly from the first film's \$85.2 million debut and even the sequel's \$46.6 million opening, but enough to bump the three-film franchise over \$1 billion globally. Women once again made up the vast majority (75 percent) of the opening weekend audience.

"We are exhilarated with the results," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "To have a trilogy engineered primarily for a female audience that we were then able to broaden out into a billion-dollar franchise is just a fantastic result."

The studio expects a healthy mid-week bump on Valen-

tine's Day and to serve as counter-programming over the holiday weekend against "Black Panther."

The steamy romance outdid other new competitors like Sony's CG and live-action update of "Peter Rabbit," featuring the voice of James Corden, and Clint Eastwood's "The 15:17 to Paris," starring the real men who thwarted an attack on a Paris-bound train in the summer of 2015.

"Peter Rabbit," which cost around \$50 million to produce, hopped to second place with a solid \$25 million and an A- CinemaScore.

"The 15:17 to Paris" pulled into third place with \$12.6 million. Eastwood's dramatic thriller about the true story was not well-received by critics or audiences, who gave the film a poor B- CinemaScore.

Two films that just won't quit rounded out the top five:

1. "Fifty Shades Freed," \$38.8 million (\$98.1 million international).	6. "Maze Runner: The Death Cure," \$6 million (\$23.5 million international).
2. "Peter Rabbit," \$25 million.	7. "Winchester," \$5.1 million (\$860,000 international).
3. "The 15:17 to Paris," \$12.6 million (\$5.3 million international).	8. "The Post," \$3.5 million (\$5.9 million international).
4. "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," \$9.8 million (\$7.5 million international).	9. "The Shape of Water," \$3 million (\$3.1 million international).
5. "The Greatest Showman," \$6.4 million (\$8.7 million international).	10. "Den of Thieves," \$2.9 million (\$4.4 million international).

Wife loses lust for husband, but wants to save marriage

DEAR ABBY: I'm not attracted to my husband. I love him and don't want to live without him, but I do not want to be physically intimate with him. I know it is unfair to him, and I have tried everything from antidepressants to meditation to diet, but nothing works.

I used to have a high libido, but I haven't wanted to have sex with him in years. We do it maybe two or three times a month because I force myself to, but it is unpleasant for me. He doesn't want to guilt me into sex and hates that I force myself, but he has a very high libido.

We are in our mid-20s and I know this is killing him—and us. I am attracted to some (but very few) others—just not to him. I have always been more emotionally attracted to women than men, but I don't think that is it. I need help before our marriage starts to crumble.

AVOIDING IT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR AVOIDING IT: I can't wave a magic wand and make you more physically attracted to your husband. I can suggest that the most sensitive sexual organ in a woman's body resides between her ears.

However, I am not qualified to diagnose whether your problem may be of a physical nature. That's why I'm advising you to ask your doctor to perform a thorough physical

examination. If he or she finds nothing amiss, ask the doctor—or your health insurance company—to refer you to a licensed mental health professional who can help you figure out what's going on.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I moved to a new town last year and are working on settling in and making friends. Our way has been to accept every invitation offered in hopes of building relationships in this small community.

We recently had dinner at the home of a neighbor couple who were very welcoming, but we quickly realized the four of us have absolutely nothing in common. Making conversation through the meal and coffee taxed all of our small-talk skills, and there were many painful silences. Any foray into current events, family life—even gardening—revealed stark differences that brought conversation to a screeching halt. We made an excuse to go home early and sent a thank-you note the next day.

Usually, I think a dinner invitation requires a reciprocal invitation in the future. In this case, I'm wondering if it would be better to just let it go. Would it be rude to not reciprocate, or must I suck it up? If we must have them over, how do I ensure the second dinner goes better than the first? We hope to live here for a long time.

DIFFERENT IN THE WEST

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR DIFFERENT: Do the right thing and invite the couple for dinner. It does not have to be in your home—a nice restaurant would do. If the evening was as uncomfortable as you have described, they may not accept your invitation. But if they do, a way to make conversation flow more easily might be to include another couple.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Pester	2 Carnival city	23 Store sign
1 Thus	38 Arctic dweller	3 Mil. bigwig	24 Sacred scroll
5 Solidify	41 Frozen water	4 Vehe-ment	26 Like a father-son talk
8 Site of Apra Harbor	42 Author Sheehy	5 Quite protest	27 Black, in verse
12 Stead	43 Capulet rival	6 Before	28 Singer Guthrie
13 "Entou- rage" agent	48 Leer at	7 Eaves- drop	29 —
14 Killer whale	49 Rainbow shape	8 Peanut	31 Sir's counter- part
15 Film se- quences	50 Super- man's alias	9 Russian river	34 Slogged away
17 Hono- lulu's isle	51 Transmit	10 Rue the run	35 Furtive
18 Espio- nage org.	52 Museum- funding	11 Tennyson poem	37 Play part
19 Post- poned	53 Pro votes	16 Goal	38 Swelled heads
21 Tempest	DOWN	20 "— girl!"	39 Wise one
24 Head, to Henri	1 Shade tree	21 Swindle	40 Pottery oven
25 Mimic		22 Dorothy's dog	41 Early Peruvian
26 Canadian city			44 Mined- over matter

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	I	R	A	T	O	M	S	C	O	W
A	C	E	D	E	F	O	E	G	L	E
M	J	F	E	I	N	T	I	N	F	A
L	E	D	E	S	T	U	F	F	S	
D	E	T	O	U	R	T	O	T	E	
A	R	E	S	I	N	E	E	D	S	
R	A	Y	L	A	D	S	P	O	T	
A	S	K	E	W	B	U	S	G	V	A
A	S	K	E	T	O	N	N	A	T	T
F	J	T	I	E	K	I	A			
A	R	T	F	R	I	N	G	P	A	N
V	A	L	E	V	E	R	T	M	O	A
A	L	E	J	E	S	K	S	K	Y	

Yesterday's answer 2-13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
			18			19	20			
21	22	23				24				
25				26				27	28	29
30				31				32		
33			34					35		
			36					37		
38	39	40				41				
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mena Suvari, 39; Kelly Hu, 50; Peter Gabriel, 68; Stockard Channing, 74.

Happy Birthday: Personal change will give you the boost you need this year. Stop procrastinating and get busy. You don't have to accomplish everything you want to achieve in just one day. Set your plans in motion and try to enjoy the process of striving after your goal. Make this year one to remember. Physical change will boost your confidence. Your numbers are 3, 10, 21, 25, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotional matters will escalate quickly, requiring you to think fast to counter any problems. Remain calm and refuse to let anyone pressure you into something you feel isn't in your best interest. Focus on positive accomplishments. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make a concerted effort to do things for the benefit of everyone, including you. The more versatile your actions are, the easier it will be to convince others to help you reach your goal. Offer peace, not pressure. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A business trip or meeting will bring about new ideas and positive changes. Don't sit back when you can be instrumental in the way things move forward. Your input will prove that you are ready to take on more responsibilities. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a closer look at your personal finances. Emotional spending should be monitored

carefully. Question every purchase and the motives you have for spending money. Use your skills and talents to come up with ideas that don't cost money. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Nurture the relationships that are healthy and helpful and reconsider your connection to those who promote reckless spending or irresponsible behavior. Positive personal changes should be your top priority. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Live within your means and only promise what you know you can deliver. Too much of anything will lead to trouble. Keep your life simple and your plans moderate. Offer love and affection instead of trying to buy favors. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Shy away from people who are too conservative or not able to grasp what you are trying to accomplish. It's best not to present what you are working toward until you have a finished product that will hold up under scrutiny. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Refuse to let your emotions or insecurities take over. Put your ego aside and be willing to go the distance for someone you love. What you have to offer will be worth more than you can imagine. The end result will be surprisingly good. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Embrace what life has to offer. Participate and take pride in what you know and do well. Your steady pace forward will send a message to anyone who doubts you. Think big, but stick to what works best. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotional impulses must be monitored carefully. Jumping into action or saying something risky or impractical will lead to hardship. Exercise caution, willpower and patience when dealing with friends and relatives. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Get involved in something that will help you bring about self-improvements. An exercise routine or activity that will fine-tune your mind and body will not go unnoticed. Romance is in the stars and will encourage personal stability. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your projects small and doable. If you expand too quickly or let someone interfere, you will not reach your target or receive the credit you deserve for your hard work and contributions. ****

Birthday Baby: You are hardworking, astute and confident. You are original and precise.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

				5		3				
				6		9	4			
4	8	5				1				
	4		1		6			9		
7										4
	2		5		3			8		
		9				8	2	6		
		4	8		5					
		6		1						

Difficulty Level ★★

2/13

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	5	9	3	6	4	1	8	2
6	2	3	8	1	9	7	4	5
8	4	1	2	7	5	9	3	6
1	7	4	5	8	6	2	9	3
9	3	8	7	4	2	5	6	1
2	6	5	9	3	1	4	7	8
5	8	6	1	9	7	3	2	4
4	9	2	6	5	3	8	1	7
3	1	7	4	2	8	6	5	9

Difficulty Level ★

2/13

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ALL ABOUT CANADA, FH

Solution: 11 letters

S T O O R B E N I L E C E O M
E E I E G D U F I N U I T H O
I W S M N A W I N E S N K W N
N V E O H O C K E Y O S E S T
O T R S O O E C R R E C T S R
O A I D T M R U O C C C E E
L D T M R C P T N R U T H U A
X T N D B A O I O L E A U G L
O O A I Y I V A T N R Y P A F
F M I J A O T U S T S E C W R
Y G D I R W R S L T N R H A E
R R A P S E T K B T O R I T N
R E N I T U O P C S I A P T C
E E A I N A H S S A D C S O H
T N C N T O W E R O C K I E S

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Ackroyd, BTO, Canadian Tire, Carrey, Celine, CN Tower, Corey, Culture, Dion, Dish, French, Fudge, Guess Who, Hart, Hockey, Ice, Inuit, Jim, Ketchup Chips, Lacrosse, La Ronde, Loonies, Montreal, Moose, Ottawa, Poutine, Rockies, Roots, Shania, Syrup, Ten Provinces, Terry Fox, Timbits, Tim Hortons, Tom Green, Toronto, Twain, West Coast, Wines, Wood
Yesterday's Answer: Monitors
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Pound of flesh

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

- **(1) GOLDSMITH/PRECIOUS METAL WORKER**
MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE TO FABRICATE, DESIGN, REPAIR, SIZING, SETTING AND MOUNTING GEM STONE, INCLUDING DIAMOND AND METAL CARVING, HAWAIIAN STYLE.
- **(1) JEWELRY CASTING TECHNICIAN**
TO MAKE MODELS OR MOLD TO CREATE JEWELRY, FABRICATE, REPAIR, SETTING, MOUNTING GEMSTONE, ETC.

Salary: \$7.05 - \$9.00 per Hour – Full Time
Experience: Min. of 5 years in Gold Smith

Interested applicants may send their resume to King's Inc. P.O. Box 5050 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950 or pick up application form from our office at Paseo de Marianas next to Paris Croissant Bakery. Deadline for a submission is no later than 5:00pm on February 23, 2018.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

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Classified Ads

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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MECHILLE CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

(1) ACCOUNTANT
(1) INTERIOR DESIGNER/SALES
(4) INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR WORKERS AND ALL

Interested applicants may send their resume to mechillecorporation@gmail.com or pick up application form at our Office at Kannat Tabla Dr. Monsignor Rd. across Café Mango Six. Deadline for submission is no later than 5:00pm on February 23, 2018

PACIFIC MARINE ENTERPRISES INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

(2) Welder

- **DUTIES:** Fabricate and assemble metal structures and equipment through the use of welders, cutters, shapers and measuring tools. Welders produce metal products according to customer or employer specifications. They use multiple welding machines to repair and maintain metal equipment and structures of various sizes. Welders read and interpret diagrams, sketches and blueprints to determine operations, required materials and timeframes for projects. Set up, operate and maintain welding equipment. They understand and implement personal and company safety measures by wearing specialized goggles, helmets and gloves.
- **QUALIFICATIONS:** Proven experience as welder, Experience using a variety of welding equipment and procedures (TIG, MMA etc.)Experience in using electrical or manual tools (saws, squares, calipers etc.)Ability to read and interpret technical documents and drawings. Knowledge of relative safety standards and willingness to use protective clothing (face-shield, gloves etc.)Deftness and attention to detail
 - ✦ Successful completion of a relevant apprenticeship program is required,
 - ✦ Professional Certification (e.g. an AWS welding certificate)
- **HOURLY RATE:** Determined based on qualifications

(2) Metal Sheet Fabricator

- **DUTIES:** Fabricates and assembles structural metal products, such as framework or shells for machinery, ovens, tanks, stacks, and metal parts for buildings and bridges according to job order, verbal instructions, and blueprints: Develops layout and plans sequence of operations, applying knowledge of trigonometry, stock allowances for thickness, machine and welding shrinkage, and physical properties of metal. Locates and marks bending and cutting lines onto work piece. Sets up and operates fabricating machines, such as brakes, rolls, shears, flame cutters, and drill presses. Designs and constructs templates and fixtures. Verifies conformance of work piece to specifications, using square, ruler, and measuring tape. May fabricate and assemble sheet metal products. May set up and operate machine tools associated with fabricating shops, such as radial drill press, end mill, and edge planer.
- **QUALIFICATIONS:** Minimum of High school and/or Associate's degree.
 - ✦ 3 – 5 related work experience and/or training, MUST be able to report to facility Mon-Fri 8AM – 5PM, Able to work additional overtime hours and some weekends as needed
- **HOURLY RATE:** Determined based on qualifications

(3) Heavy Equipment Operators

- **DUTIES:** Provide support to successful completion of construction and engineering work; Operate all heavy equipment like cranes, earth movers, bulldozers, front-end loaders, and other related equipment. Operate the equipment in the right direction and angles to prevent accidents and damage of property. Ensure and manage the machines or equipment in a safe and secure way. Perform periodical safety, maintenance or servicing checks to ensure proper functioning of the equipment.
 - ✦ Perform minor repair works during functioning problems Inform and advise the management or repairmen for major repairs or maintenance Drive and control the equipment Perform road work, excavation work, lifting work, etc.
 - ✦ Respond to signals and directions by the staff and work in coordination with them
 - ✦ Maintain proper coordination and cooperation with the road and transport system while driving/working, so that the normal activities are not disrupted.
 - ✦ Operate the equipment manually and also through the use of electronic or technical methods of operation. Work in adherence to safe practices, procedures, and work site or traffic laws. Report to the senior operation manager Perform other duties, as and when assigned.
- **QUALIFICATIONS:** 3 – 7 years work experience, MUST be able to pass a drug and background screen.
 - ✦ MUST be able to report to facility Mon-Fri 8AM – 5PM, Able to work additional overtime hours and some weekends as needed
- **HOURLY RATE:** Determined based on qualifications

(3) Painter, General Maintenance and Repair Workers

- **DUTIES:** Participates in general cleaning, painting, and repair work. Uses hand tools and power tools in making minor maintenance repairs and maintaining grounds and walks. Assists in shipping and receiving of supplies and materials. Provides assistance to staff, visitors, and other employees as necessary. Checks building at beginning and end of shifts.

Additional Duties:

- ✦ Receives oral or written orders from Head Custodian and Head of Building Services. Performs work according to standard procedure and by building's operational schedule. Cleans rooms, hallways, restrooms, offices, stairways and windows. Uses brooms, mops, and floor equipment to sweep, mop, strip and wax floors. Uses vacuum cleaners to clean rugs, carpets, upholstered furniture and blinds. Dusts furniture and equipment. Washes walls, ceilings, woodwork, windows, doors and sills. Makes minor carpentry, electrical, mechanical and plumbing repairs. Performs touch up and finish painting. Empties wastebaskets. Replenishes restroom supplies. Replaces light bulbs. Sets up and tears down chairs, tables and equipment in meeting rooms, and function rooms. Opens and closes building according to security procedures. Reports work accomplished orally or on written work order to supervisor.

■ **QUALIFICATIONS:** 3 – 7 years work experience, MUST be able to pass a drug and background screen. MUST be able to report to facility Mon-Fri 8AM – 5PM, Able to work additional overtime hours and some weekends as needed

■ **HOURLY RATE:** Determined based on qualifications.

(3) Auto Motive Diesel Mechanic

- **DUTIES:** Start motors and monitor performance for signs of malfunctioning, such as smoke, excessive vibration, or misfiring. Observe equipment in operation to detect potential problems. Document inspection and test results and work performed or to be performed. Document test results. Mount motors to boats and operate boats at various speeds on waterways to conduct operational tests. Position equipment using hand tools, power tools, or heavy equipment. Mount motors to boats and operate boats at various speeds on waterways to conduct operational tests. Conduct operational tests. Position equipment using hand tools, power tools, or heavy equipment. Perform routine engine maintenance on motorboats, such as changing oil and filters.
 - ✦ Service vehicles to maintain functionality. Inspect and repair or adjust propellers or propeller shafts. Inspect mechanical components of vehicles to identify problems.
 - ✦ Repair defective engines or engine components.
 - ✦ Read and interpret diagnostic test results from diagnostic equipment such as an oscilloscope, which is used to measure the voltage produced by electronic components
 - ✦ Test drive vehicles to diagnose malfunctions
 - ✦ Read and interpret diagnostic test results from diagnostic equipment such as an oscilloscope, which is used to measure the voltage produced by electronic components
 - ✦ Raise trucks, buses, and heavy parts or equipment by using hydraulic jacks or hoists
 - ✦ Inspect brake systems, steering mechanisms, transmissions, engines, and other parts of vehicles
 - ✦ Do routine maintenance, such as changing oil, checking batteries, and lubricating equipment and parts
 - ✦ Adjust and align wheels, tighten bolts and screws, and attach system components
 - ✦ Repair or replace malfunctioning components, parts, and other mechanical or electrical equipment
 - ✦ Test-drive vehicles to ensure that they run smoothly
- **QUALIFICATIONS:** Minimum of High school and/or Associate's degree.
 - ✦ 3 – 5 related work experience and/or training, MUST be able to report to facility Mon-Fri 8AM – 5PM, Able to work additional overtime hours and some weekends as needed
- **HOURLY RATE:** Determined based on qualifications

Applicants must be able to work on flexible hours with valid driver's license.

Please email resume to pme@pticom.com or Mail resume at
Pacific Marine Enterprises Inc.
PMB 181 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950
no later than February 25, 2018

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

K FISHMART
(1) Fisherman

If interested, contact 989-2446 to apply.
With valid driver's license required.

EMPLOYMENT

1 Commercial Cleaner, 1 General Maintenance - 3-5 years experience with valid driver's license. Police Clearance required. Email resume to San Vicente Estates at cisco.cnmi@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ELECTRICIAN	\$7.55/hr	4-years experience
(1) CARPENTER	\$7.55/hr	4-years experience
(1) COMPUTER PROGRAMMER	\$7.55/hr	4-years experience
(1) GENERAL MANAGER	Salary depends on qualification	

HONG ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES, INC.
Send resume to hongeei@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
WINCHELL'S DONUTS

1 vacancy for **Store Manager**. Wage per hour depends on qualifications. Must be college level and has at least 1 year of continued experience in managing bakery operations; must have knowledge in operating cash register or POS system; must be customer-service oriented, computer literate and confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese or other foreign languages is highly preferred.

4 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers**. Wage ranges from \$7.05/hr to \$8.00/hr. Must be a high school graduate with a few months to 1 year experience in baking; must be able to read, write and speak basic English; must be capable of lifting at least 50lbs and has basic mathematical skills. Capability of conversing in basic Japanese and other foreign languages is highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health with good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards; provide current police/court clearance and health certificate. Must have reliable transportation and willing to undergo drug test.

Please email your resume to
jobapplicant2014@gmail.com

R3A General Services, LLC
Job Vacancy Announcement

- (1) Electrical Supervisor - \$8.00/hr.
- (6) Maintenance Repairer - \$7.25/hr.
- (5) Mason - \$7.25/hr.
- (4) General Maintenance - \$7.25/hr.
- (1) Accountant - \$7.25 to \$8.00/hr.

For more information, please call our office at Kannat Tabla Drive, Saipan MP 96950.
Tel: 670-234-1495 or Cell: 788-1495 or email us at:
arielinvillanueva@gmail.com

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School
Is requesting applicants for:

(1) Teacher

- Must have a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Education
- Must have NAD Certification
- Will consider OPT
- Willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures
- Willing to continue professional development within your teaching area
- Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Send resumes to: **Saipan SDA School Principal**
P.O. Box 501063 Saipan MP 96950
principal@saipansdaschool.org

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School
Is requesting applicants for:

(2) Child Development Center/ Pre-School Teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum two years experience working with young children in a school setting (18 months through 4 years of age)• Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree• CPR/First Aid Certified• Knowledge of child development and curriculum• Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church• Willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures	(1) Maintenance Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum two years of general maintenance experience and supervision• Knowledge of plumbing, electrical, building construction, and general maintenance• Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
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Send resumes to: **Saipan SDA School Principal**
P.O. Box 501063 Saipan MP 96950
principal@saipansdaschool.org

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Accountant

Qualifications: Must be a College Degree with at least five year experience in General Accounting. Must be knowledgeable in the preparation of Financial Statements. Must be knowledgeable in Peach Tree and be able to work flexible hours. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience beginning at \$700.00/semi-monthly.

Interested applicants are requested to fill up the company's application form and submit with a copy of Driver's License at our office in Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Ground Floor no later than February 19, 2018.



PACIFIC TRADING COMPANY, LTD.

P.O. Box 500236 Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 322 -6624/5483 Fax: (670) 322-5616

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Computer Network Support Specialist

Provide technical assistance to computer users. Nswer questions or resolve computer problems. The employee may provide assistance concerning the use of computer hardware and software, including printing, installation, word processing, electronic mail, and operating systems.

Tasks

- Oversee the daily performance of computer systems
- Configure wide area network (WAN) or local area network (LAN) routers or related equipment.
- Identify and troubleshoot the causes of networking or connectivity problems for users or user groups using diagnostic testing software and equipment.
- Provide telephone support related to networking or connectivity issues.
- Evaluate local area network (LAN) or wide area network (WAN) performance data to ensure sufficient availability or speed, to identify network problems, or for disaster recovery purposes.
- Analyze network data to determine network usage, disk space availability, or server function.
- Install network software or equipment for employee use, performing or ensuring proper installation of cables, operating systems, or appropriate software.
- Maintain records of daily data communication transactions, problems and remedial actions taken, or installation activities.
- Read technical manuals, confer with users, or conducts computer diagnostics to investigate and resolve problems or to provide technical assistance and support.
- Perform routine maintenance or standard repairs to networking components or equipment.
- Refer major hardware or software problems or defective products to vendors or technicians for service.
- Run monthly network reports.
- Responsible for generating daily inventory transfer reports; monthly itemizes sales report and other reports as requested by management.
- Research hardware or software products to meet technical networking or security needs.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Skills and Qualifications: Problem solving skill, Time Management and Organizational Skill, Written and Verbal Communication Skill, System Analysis and Troubleshooting Skills, Analytical Thinking skill.

Qualification Requirement: Any combination equivalent to graduation with an Associate's degree plus five years of related work experience.

PTC offers a competitive salary to correspond with experience and qualification. Interested person may pick up an employment application at our office in Puerto Rico. Deadline for submission is no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 16, 2018.

Pacific Trading Company is an equal opportunity employer.



PACIFIC TRADING COMPANY, LTD.

P.O. Box 500236 Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 322 -6624/5483 Fax: (670) 322-5616

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Accountant / Book Keeper

The incumbent in this position will be responsible for processing accounts receivables and payable. Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. The employee may be assigned to prepare BGRT, excise tax, daily sales and collection reports.

Tasks

- Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information.
- Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes.
- Classify, record, and summarize numerical and financial data to compile and keep financial records, using journals and ledgers or computers.
- Debit, credit, and total accounts on computer spreadsheets and databases, using specialized accounting software.
- Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents.
- Receive, record bank cash, checks, and vouchers.
- Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations.
- Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and tables pertaining to such matters as cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payable and receivable, and profits/losses.
- Code documents according to company procedures.
- Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Qualification: Any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college with a bachelor's degree in Accounting plus two years of related work experience. Knowledge in Accpac software is desirable.

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PACIFIC TRADING COMPANY, LTD.

P.O. Box 500236 Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 322 -6624/5483 Fax: (670) 322-5616

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Accounting Supervisor

The incumbent in this position will be responsible for supervising and monitoring accounting personnel. Under the direct supervision of the Office Manager, the incumbent will also be responsible for monitoring accounts receivables and payable. Supervise the work of accounting, administrative, or customer service employees to ensure adherence to quality standards, deadlines, and proper procedures, correcting errors or problems. Train, instruct and supervise employees in their job duties or company policies and evaluate employees' job performance and conformance to regulations and recommend appropriate personnel action. Responsible for reviewing and monitoring records or reports pertaining to activities such as production, payroll or shipping to verify details, monitor work activities or evaluate performance. Responsible for reviewing and analyzing postings of all transactions of all accounting books such as G/L, A/R, A/P and inventory using SBT and Microsoft Programs. Prepare, examine, or analyze accounting records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards. Responsible for analyzing and interpreting accounting data for financial preparations and IC recommendations. Analyze business operations, trends, costs, revenues, financial, commitments, and obligations, to project future revenues and expenses or to provide advice. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and table pertaining to such matters as cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payable and receivable, and profits, losses. Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Qualification: B.S. in accounting graduate from an accredited college, with two or more years related work experience. Strong interpersonal and written communication skills. Must be able to communicate well with all levels of management. Strong analytical skills. Can work well under pressure and meet deadlines. Knowledge in ACCPAC software is desirable.

PTC offers a competitive salary to correspond with experience and qualification. Interested person may pick up an employment application at our office in Puerto Rico. Deadline for submission is no later than 5:00pm on February 16, 2018.

Pacific Trading Company is an equal opportunity employer.



PACIFIC TRADING COMPANY, LTD.

P.O. Box 500236 Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 322 -6624/5483 Fax: (670) 322-5616

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Refrigeration Technician

Job Duties/Responsibilities:

Responsible for maintaining and repairing the vending, keg, and post mix machines. The employee must have knowledge in the refrigeration system. Observe abd test system operation, using gauges and instruments. Adjust valves according to specifications and charge system with proper type of refrigerant by pumping the specified gas or fluid into the system. Test lines, components, and connections for leaks. Dismantle malfunctioning systems and test components, using electrical, mechanical, and pneumatic testing equipment. Adjust or replace worn or defective mechanisms and parts to repair defective joints and leaks. Perform mechanical overhauls and refrigerant reclaiming. Keep records of repairs and replacements made and causes of malfunctions. Install expansion and control valves, using acetylene torches and wrenches. Install wiring to connect components to an electric power source.

Qualifications:

Graduate from an accredited college with an Associate degree plus two years of related work experience. Knowledge of the operation of vending machine is desirable.

PTC offers a competitive salary to correspond with experience and qualification. Interested person may pick up an employment application at our office in Puerto Rico. Deadline for submission is no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 16, 2018.

Pacific Trading Company is an equal opportunity employer.

Ronaldo-Neymar showdown with jobs at stake



LONDON (AP)—The Champions League resumes with a mouth-watering meeting of the aristocrats and the disruptors of European soccer.

The hosts: Real Madrid, the indisputable kings of the continent with 12 titles led by five-time world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo.

The visitors: Paris Saint-Germain, the upstarts who bulldozed soccer's transfer record to hitch Neymar to the Qatari-funded mission to join soccer's elite.

The Santiago Bernabeu is the stage on Wednesday for Neymar's return to Spain six months after the heir to Ronaldo's throne was prized away from Barcelona for 222 million euros.

"(Neymar and Ronaldo) are both quick, very strong one-on-one, they play quickly and put a lot of intensity into their games," said PSG winger Angel Di Maria, a Champions League winner alongside Ronaldo at Madrid in 2014. "Ney is smaller, and that's perhaps his advantage. But they are both capable of turning games."

Only one of the superstars can advance from the round of 16 games in Madrid and Paris over the next month.

The 26-year-old Neymar is chasing the supreme status already attained by Ronaldo.

"He lives and breathes goals," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said of Ronaldo, underscoring the 33-year-old Portuguese's enduring influence on the team. Ronaldo has helped Madrid win three of the last four Champions League titles, with two goals in last season's final victory over Juventus.

Juventus helps to open the knockout phase this week against Tottenham on Tuesday when Manchester City



travels to Basel. Liverpool is away against Porto on Wednesday but it will take something special to seize the spotlight from the Spanish capital.

It's not just a place in the quarterfinals at stake for PSG and Madrid. The losing coach is likely to find himself out of work by the end of the season.

Only two months ago, Zidane

lifted the Club World Cup for a second successive year but his job prospects could be dependent on winning a third successive Champions League title.

So much has gone wrong domestically. Madrid languishes in fourth place and 17 points behind Barcelona in La Liga and is out of the Copa del Rey.

In Paris, Unai Emery is still haunted by last season's failures. He clung to power despite being deposed as French champions and an astonishing collapse at this stage to Barcelona.

"We're stronger than last season," Di Maria said.

Certainly in France where PSG has pulled 12 points clear of defending champion Monaco.

But while PSG can bully most

Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo, top, heads the ball to score his side's fourth goal during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Real Sociedad at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018.

teams, it is vulnerable against those playing with aggression and closing down high up the pitch. That was evident in a loss to Lyon last month when PSG panicked in defense and conceded a stoppage-time goal.

PSG will be hoping the decision to invest so much of its resources in securing Neymar and Kylian Mbappe does not backfire against Madrid.

Di Maria has been in stronger form than Mbappe recently, scoring four times in the last month compared to the 19-year-old forward's solitary effort.

Might it have been wiser to spend on protecting the shaky defense? For the trip to Spain, 32-year-old Lassana Diarra could be deployed as the holding midfielder even though Emery accepts he can't last a full game.

But Madrid has concerns in defense after conceding eight goals in its last five games, and Dani Carvajal is suspended after a yellow-card ploy backfired. While Carvajal had experience taking on Neymar in games against Barcelona, Zidane could be left relying on 19-year-old Achraf Hakimi.

Madrid is protecting a formidable home record in Europe, having gone 17 matches unbeaten. But as Karim Benzema has been discovering, playing at home has its pitfalls.

"I don't know why there's a section of our supporters that jeer Benzema," Zidane said. "His fortunes will change."

Here is a closer look at the week's other games.

Colts hire Frank Reich as new head coach



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indianapolis Colts' second choice for head coach could turn out to be even better than the first.

And Frank Reich has the Super Bowl championship gear to prove it.

Five days after New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels reneged on a deal to take the Colts' job, Ballard hired Reich, the man who outwitted McDaniels last week and helped lead the Philadelphia Eagles to their first NFL title since 1960.

"Frank is a leader of men who will demand excellence from our players on and off the field," Ballard said in a statement released Sunday. "I look forward to working with Frank to deliver a championship-caliber team to the city of Indianapolis."

Terms of the deal were not immediately available, but Reich is expected to be introduced at a news conference Tuesday.

Colts officials posted a photo of Reich signing the deal on the team's website.

The move ends a search that spanned 41 days, included two coaching announcements and the embarrassment of McDaniels changing his

mind Tuesday night just eight hours after telling the Colts he'd take the job.

On Wednesday, Ballard answered questions for nearly 20 minutes before finishing with "the rivalry is back on."

By hiring Reich, another touted offensive coordinator and a potential leading candidate next season, only added another chapter to the long and bitter series.

Exactly one week after backup quarterback Nick Foles executed an exquisite game plan to beat Tom Brady and the favored Patriots, the Colts brought back a longtime assistant who spent two seasons working with Peyton Manning.

But this wasn't just about sending a message.

"Frank has all the ingredients of a successful head coach: intelligence, innovation, character, organizational and leadership skills, and a commanding presence," team owner Jim Irsay said. "He also has a stellar reputation, and his myriad of life experiences and the people he has worked with make him the perfect fit for us and our fans. I feel extremely fortunate and could not be more excited for Colts Nation and the future of our franchise."

It sure didn't take long to make the decision.

Ballard interviewed the 56-year-old Reich on Friday, the day after Philadelphia held its victory celebration.

He replaces Chuck Pagano, who was fired hours after finishing the season with a 4-12 record and missing the playoffs for the third consecutive year.

Reich takes over a franchise that appears to have some key pieces in place—especially if Andrew Luck is healthy.

Luck missed the entire 2017 season after having surgery for a partially torn labrum in his throwing shoulder. He went on injured reserve in November because of lingering pain in his right shoulder after he had started throwing a football.

On Wednesday, Ballard said Luck still hasn't thrown a football since October.

"He's going to do everything right to get himself ready to play and I'm very confident, he's very confident, that he's going to come back and prove a lot of people wrong," Ballard said.

The Colts also have a defense that showed steady improvement throughout the season, the No. 3 overall draft pick in April, nearly \$80 million to spend in free agency and a promising backup quarterback in Jacoby Brissett, who started 15 games in 2017.

Potter outplays Johnson to win Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—For one day at Pebble Beach, Ted Potter Jr. was better than the best in the world.

Look back even further, and his three-shot victory in the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am is even more remarkable.

He played so many mini-tour events that he lost track of how many he won, some of them only two-day tournaments that paid enough for a week's worth of food and gas. His biggest paycheck was \$33,000. More recently, Potter was out of golf for two years recovering from a broken ankle that required two surgeries—one to insert 12 screws and two plates, another to remove all that hardware. There was no guarantee he would make it back.

Potter started the final round Sunday tied with Dustin Johnson, the No. 1 player in the world for the last year. Throughout the day, Phil Mickelson and Jason Day each made a run at the 34-year-old Floridian who had 46 missed cuts and only four top 10s in his previous 83 starts on the PGA Tour.

Potter beat them all.

He was the one chatting with Clint Eastwood and posing with the crystal trophy that comes with a \$1,332,000 check and a return to the Masters.

"I'm so happy right now to get it done today, especially against the world No. 1, playing with him today," Potter said. "The win here at Pebble is just unbelievable."

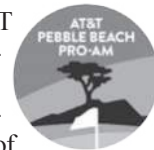
Just don't call it a fluke.

Potter closed with a 3-under 69 and didn't drop a shot after a three-putt bogey on the opening hole. Making it tougher was playing in a threesome behind a foursome in the pro-am format, having too much time to think about the stage, the contenders and the opportunity.

He never flinched.

The key moment came behind the green on the par-3 seventh, the most picturesque at Pebble Beach. He and Johnson were side-by-side in light rough to a firm green that ran away from them. Johnson chipped nicely to 4 feet. Potter put a little more loft on his shot and holed it for a birdie and a two-shot lead.

No one got closer the rest of the way.



New-look Cavaliers cruise past Celtics



BOSTON (AP)—LeBron James led the new-look Cavaliers to a blowout in Boston with an individual performance reminiscent of the rivalry's heyday.

And this time, Paul Pierce was sitting courtside in street clothes, unable to do anything about it.

With the former Celtics great waiting to see his No. 34 raised to the Boston Garden rafters, James shook off a first-quarter leg injury to score 24 points with 10 assists and eight rebounds to give Cleveland a 121-99 victory on Sunday.

In their first appearances since being acquired at the trade deadline, Jordan Clarkson scored 17 points, Rodney Hood had 15, George Hill had 12 and Larry Nance Jr. scored five. The foursome practiced with the Cavs for the first time on Saturday.

"I know the guys that are here are very excited about this opportunity," James said. "It's my job to as the leader of this team to make sure that I acclimate the new four guys to be around a culture that's built around winning."

Thunder 110, Grizzlies 92

In Oklahoma City, Paul George scored 33 points and host Oklahoma City beat Memphis without fellow stars Russell Westbrook and Carmelo Anthony.

Westbrook missed the game with a sprained left ankle and Carmelo Anthony sat out with a sprained right ankle. George responded by making 10 of 24 shots and adding eight assists.

Alex Abrines scored 16 points and Raymond Felton, Jerami Grant and Patrick Patterson each added 14 for the Thunder. Marc Gasol scored 18 points for the Grizzlies.

Pacers 121, Knicks 113

In Indianapolis, Victor Oladipo had 30 points, nine assists and eight rebounds to help Indiana beat New York in Indianapolis.

Bojan Bogdanovic made four 3-pointers and finished with 20 points and Thaddeus Young added 18 points, 11 rebounds and five assists. The Pacers have won six of eight.

Enes Kanter and Tim Hardaway, Jr. each scored 17 points, and Michael Beasley had 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Knicks.

Timberwolves 111, Kings 106

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 29 points, Jeff Teague added 12 points and 10 assists and Minnesota over-



Boston Celtics' Kyrie Irving drives past Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018.

came an uncharacteristic sloppy performance at home to beat Sacramento in Minneapolis.

Minnesota had 17 turnovers and allowed Sacramento 22 second-chance points, but prevailed after back-to-back road losses. Jimmy Butler scored 18 points, 15 in the second half, for the Timberwolves in their 13th straight home win.

Rockets 104, Mavericks 97

In Houston, James Harden scored 27 points, Chris Paul added 25 and Houston routed visiting Dallas.

The Rockets have won eight straight and 12 of 13.

Yogi Ferrell scored 20 points for the Mavericks. They have lost eight of 10.

Raptors 123, Hornets 103

In Charlotte, DeMar DeRozan had 25 points and eight assists, C.J. Miles added 24 points and Toronto routed Charlotte in Charlotte, North Carolina, for its fifth straight victory.

Jonas Valanciunas added 21 points and nine rebounds for Toronto, sparking the Raptors' pivotal run in the third quarter. Dwane Casey earned his 300th victory as head coach of the team.

Kemba Walker led the Hornets with 23 points and nine assists.

Hawks 118, Pistons 115

In Atlanta, Dewayne Dedmon

Pierce joins Celtics legends as Boston retires his No. 34

BOSTON (AP)—Paul Pierce used to walk onto the court at TD Garden and imagine seeing his number hanging from the rafters.

"The Truth" doesn't have to dream about that day anymore.

The Celtics retired Pierce's No. 34 on Sunday following the Celtics' 121-99 loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers. He became the 23rd person in franchise history to have his number or name enshrined by the Celtics organization.

The honor capped a 19-year career for Pierce, who was named NBA Finals MVP in 2008 when the Celtics captured their 17th championship.

After the game, Pierce, clad in a green plaid blazer, entered the court via the newly named Paul Pierce Players' Tunnel. The team said the tunnel, featuring Pierce's signature, will serve as a reminder to current and future players of what "being a Celtic" means.

When his jersey was raised, Pierce was serenaded with chants of "Thank You, Paul Pierce!"

"This is just a special day," Pierce said afterward. "If I

never make the Hall of Fame or anything, to go up in the rafters as a retired number for the Celtics—that's just enough. That's enough for me. ... When you're forever with the Celtics, you're forever."

The 40-year-old Pierce retired after last season. He tops the Celtics' all-time lists in 3-pointers made (1,823), free throws (6,434) and steals (1,583).

He is Boston's second all-time leading scorer with 24,021 points, trailing only John Havlicek. His 15 seasons also trail only Havlicek's 16 for the longest stint with the team.

Current Celtics players gathered to watch the ceremony, and legends including Robert Parish, Cedric Maxwell and Tom "Satch" Sanders sat on the court.

Pierce credited his mother, Lorraine Hosey, and brothers Jamal and Steve Hosey, for inspiring him.

"It starts at home. It starts



Former Boston Celtics Paul Pierce, left, raises a banner during a ceremony to retire his number following an NBA basketball game against the Cleveland Cavaliers in Boston, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018.

where you come from," Pierce said.

He later cried when acknowledging his wife, Julie, and their three children.

Pierce sat next to the 2008 championship trophy as the team showered him with

tributes.

Along with having his number retired, Pierce also received a framed replica of the banner that his No. 34 will be added to, a Rolex watch, a piece of the Celtics' parquet floor and a stained-glass backboard adorned with his number.

A weekend of festivities in honor of Pierce began with a private dinner hosted by the Celtics on Saturday night. Parish attended along with several of Pierce's former teammates, including Antoine Walker, Walter McCarty, Brian Scalabrine and Leon Powe.

Pierce said the honors reminded him of how much he sacrificed during his career. He said being a Celtic was "meant to be."

During the game, the Celtics showed video segments that highlighted Pierce's basketball journey. The clips

went as far back as his Inglewood High School days and included interviews with friends, family and former teammates.

There were also surprise recorded tributes from NBA greats Magic Johnson and Kobe Bryant. Pierce smiled as Bryant said in his message that Pierce made "all the Celtics legends proud."

Pierce sat courtside with his family and Celtics co-owner Wyc Grousbeck. Former Celtics coach Doc Rivers and teammates Kevin Garnett and Rajon Rondo—all part of the 2008 title run—sat together nearby.

Rivers told the crowd about conversations he and Pierce used to have about the day his number would be retired. He said the 2008 championship solidified Pierce's status as an all-time great in Boston.

"I just think it always cements it. When you win a title you become a main man, and that made Paul," Rivers said. "He would have had this night regardless of winning the title, but winning the title makes this day pretty special."

Twin wins for Tinsel Toes

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Tinsel Toes notched a pair of wins in the co-ed U12 division of Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

The first one came at the hands of Kanoa Ali'i last Thursday, 7-6, while the second was against CTSI Petmalu last Sunday, 5-3.

Versus CTSI Petmalu, Sean Gil and Ruben Guerrero teamed up in giving Tinsel Toes its third win in five games. Gil and Guerrero scored two goals apiece with the latter making both in the second half. Markus Toves made the other goal for Tinsel Toes in the first half, which ended with the squad ahead by one, 2-1. CTSI Petmalu's goals were courtesy of Pia

Ngewakl, Carvin Cruzat, and Kristopher Pascual.

Against Kanoa Ali'i, Toves stood out for Tinsel Toes after firing six goals—three apiece in the first and second half. Guerrero added one goal in the first half, allowing Tinsel Toes to cling to a 4-3 halftime edge. Paul Lizama and Han Tae Hyun delivered two goals apiece for Kanoa Ali'i, which got an own goal in the first half to remain in contention. Tyler Omelau was the other player who scored for the losing squad.

Meanwhile, Betde handed Kanoa Ali'i back-to-back losses after registering a 5-2 victory in their game last Sunday.

Kaithlyn Chavez and Julie Capayas posted two goals each for Betde, while Mark Roque contributed one. Om-

elau was the only Kanoa Ali'i player to hit the board in last weekend's game.

In other results, Fake Madrid is still unbeaten (5-0-0 win-draw-loss record) following a 7-3 triumph over Betde United in their co-ed U15 division match last Sunday.

Paulyn Joyce and Kaden Church bagged two goals apiece, while Blake Mister, Jon Villagomez, and Katrina Costales had one each for Fake Madrid. Kohtaro Goto made a pair for Betde United, while Jerick Quimzon chipped in one.

Betde United, before facing Fake Madrid, downed CNMI United, 5-1. Taka Borja led Betde United's victory after drilling a hat trick, while Ezekiel Canape and Brandon Tenorio scored the two other



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kanoa Ali'i and Tinsel Toes players pose for a group photo before their co-ed U12 division game in Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Thursday at the TSL Sports Complex.

goals for the winning squad. Merrick Toves posted the lone goal for CNMI United last Thursday.

CNMI United returned to the artificial turf last Sunday and

this time won against Marianas United, 11-2. Jhoey Noble and Ian Maniago scored three goals apiece for CNMI United, while

Merrick Toves added two, and Floyd Muna, Mariana Castro, and Keisha Deleon Guerrero tallied one each.

Rogolifoi: Youth baseball players at their prime in '21

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Tony Rogolifoi is looking at several young talents that could become members of the CNMI national baseball team and represent the Commonwealth when Saipan hosts the Pacific Mini Games three years from now.

Rogolifoi, who guided the CNMI to the gold-medal win in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia, has decided to keep the names to himself but would make the recommendations when they start forming the squad for the 2021 Mini Games.

"I see a lot of young players who have the potential. All they need are rigorous training and some experience in international tournaments. Come 2021, these players will be in their prime," Rogolifoi told *Saipan Tribune*.

"They would be at their peak at that time. Just in time to go up against the best in the [Oceania] region."

Some of these players saw action in the Saipan Baseball League's Under 25 division and will also play in the SBL

2018 season. Senior leaguers in the Saipan Little League are also possible candidates since they would be around 19 or 20 by 2021.

Baseball will be making a comeback in 2021 after the sport was last played in the 2011 edition of the region's quadrennial sporting



event. Baseball was not included in the 2013 Mini Games in Wallis and Futuna, 2015 Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea, 2017 Mini Games in Vanuatu, and in next year's Pacific Games in Samoa.

With the sport back, Rogolifoi said that as hosts, the CNMI

must form a strong team that is capable of winning the championship in the island's favorite past time. "We must put our best foot forward, since we're the hosts."

He added that six teams had already confirmed their participation in the baseball competition. The list includes 2011 Pacific Games runner-up Guam, bronze medalist Palau, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, and New Caledonia.

Meanwhile, before concentrating in the 2021 Mini Games, Rogolifoi will first focus on the 2018 Micronesian Games as the CNMI aims to reclaim the gold medal it last won when Saipan hosted the event in 2006.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Falcons runner dives and beats the NSA Braves third baseman during their Senior League game in the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. Some Senior League player may suit up for the CNMI national team that will compete in baseball in the 2021 Pacific Mini Games which Saipan will be hosting.

CRANK

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ages Camacho, along with a number of UFC fighters and some NFL players.

Camacho plans to get back inside the octagon this summer, eager to secure a victory after a unanimous loss to Drew Dober in UFC on Fox 27: Jacare vs Brunson last month at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. Sanchez responded with a short "I like the matchup" message to Camacho a few hours after the Mari-

anas bet's fight against Dober (19-8, 4 KOs).

"I just got back to the islands and I miss the gym already. I had a good week off, now back to training. You'll never know what could come up in the next few weeks," said Camacho.

He signed a four-fight deal with the UFC and holds a 1-2 record after the loss to Dober. His three UFC bouts gave him Fight of the Night honors, earning him a good standing with the Las Vegas, Nevada-based organization.

House picked two of his opponents—Dober and Australian Damien Brown (17-12, 3 KOs). Camacho beat the Aussie by split decision in November last year. His first UFC fight was against Li Jingliang (14-5, 5 KOs) on June 17, 2017 and he was just a last-minute replacement when he fought the China Top Team fighter after Canada's Jonathan Meunier (8-1) withdrew from the bout due to injury.

For his fourth fight or future UFC appearances, Camacho hopes to showcase his fighting

skills in Las Vegas.

"It's always been a goal to fight in Las Vegas. But, it's totally up to the UFC. They have shows all over the world," he said.

However, Camacho said he is always ready to represent the Marianas whether the fight would be in Las Vegas or anywhere else. "I think any fight in the UFC is truly a blessing. Doing what I love to do and to the best of my ability is always a blessing. Now, I just got to be ready for the opportunities to fly our flags and represent."

GCA

From Page 28

ensuing play, as Ryu served and a return from GCA 1's Edward Kil went wide off the backcourt.

In other results in last week's matches, Agape Christian Academy swept its two assignments, while GCA 1 won over Saipan International School before bowing to GCA 2.

Agape first outclassed Seventh Day Adventists, 25-21, 25-11, in their Feb. 6 match at the ACS court in Middle Road, and then defeated Mt. Carmel School 2 last Thurs-

day, 25-13, 25-9.

In the GCA 1-SIS tiff, the Geckos pulled off a close 25-23 victory in the first set. GCA 1 then fought back in the second set with a 25-14 triumph to extend the match. Then in the deciding third set, GCA 1 picked up where it left off, posting a 15-7 win.

Meanwhile, games resume today with SIS hosting GCA 2 in As Lito and Mt. Carmel School 1 visiting Agape. Mt. Carmel School 2 will then head to Chalan Kiya to challenge SDA, while GCA 1 will host Saipan Community School.

KANOA

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Paulynn Joyce alternately knocked in the first four goals for Kanoa in the second half and the former ended up registering four and matching the latter's output. Joyce scored the first goal in the match in the 21st and had her three others in the 40th, 44th, and 68th minute. Francisco's goals, on the other hand, came in the 37th, 42nd, 50th, and 55th minute.

Kiara Nichole Manganti and Yejin Ha delivered the other goals for Kanoa with the former having a pair.

In other results in the girls U16 division, MP United FC also eased past Southern United FC, 8-3.

Stellalou McCallion towed MP United to its season debut win after firing four goals, which came in succession, as she scored in the 23rd, 25th, 41st, and 55th minute. Francesa Bucalig added two with her shots in the second and 15th minute, while Marielle Fiona Bucalig and Audrey Castro delivered in the 22nd and 63rd, respectively.

Isabella Evangelista posted two goals for Southern United when she found the back of the net in the fifth and 49th

minute, while Keisha Deleon Guerrero made the other one in the 65th.

TanHoldings joined MP United and Kanoa on the winners list in the opening week after topping Paire FC in the second game, 4-1.

Four different players hit the board for TanHoldings with Mary Joy Aniana, Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, Emalyn Aniana, and Judy Ann Andebor scoring in the 30th, 33rd, 45th, and 68th minute. Paire's lone goal was courtesy of Tasilyn Ramon, who averted the squad's shutout loss after finding her target in the 43rd minute.

Meanwhile, the other boys U18 division match at the Hopwood pitch had Kanoa outclassing National Development Academy, 4-1.

Andrew Omelau registered a pair of goals for Kanoa, while Brian Lubao and Merrick Toves chipped in one apiece. Toves and Lubao scored in the fifth and 32nd minute for Kanoa's 2-0 halftime lead, while Omelau's two goals were made in the 61st and 74th minute. Gillian Villagomez posted the only goal for NDA, which is made up of the boys U18 and female players under the CNMI national training pool.

2018 Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Kento Akimaru runs out of the water to compete the three-loop race in the 2018 Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim held early this month at the Pacific Islands Club.



Wataru Kadokura smiles as he completes the swim and prepares to run to the shore.



David Boyer heads to the shore to finish the three-loop race.



Florence Antonio removes his goggles as he heads to the shore to complete the two-loop race.



Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero smiles after finishing the three-loop race.



Jinie Thompson heads out of the water.



Taiyo Akimaru takes a brief breather after the swim.



Savita Sikkell, left, and Mark Chavez race to the finish line.



Ronaldo-Neymar
showdown with
jobs at stake

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New-look
Cavaliers cruise
past Celtics

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kanoa, TanHoldings rout foes



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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Kanoa Football Club and TanHoldings FC were on fire in their season debuts as they torched their respective opponents in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday.

Kanoa pounded Matansa FC, 11-0, in the last girls U16 game in the opening week of the spring league at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field, while in the boys U18 match at the Hopwood Middle School Field, TanHoldings also shutdown Matansa FC, 7-0.

Mark Esalan starred in TanHoldings' easy win over Matansa after drilling four goals. Joshua Waldo, Albert Bergancia, and John Michael Rojas contributed one goal each. Esalan started things off for TanHoldings with his goal in the 38th minute and then also led the squad's break



away in the second as he logged three of the team's last four. He made back-to-back goals in the 61st and 69th minute and the last in the 75th.

Waldo handed TanHoldings its second goal in the 42nd, while Rojas made it a 3-1 lead for the team in the 53rd, and Bergancia joined the scoring surge with his conversion in the 71st minute.

In the Kanoa-Matansa tiff in the girls U16 division, the former also broke the game wide open in the second half after holding on to a 2-0 halftime edge.

Sharmaine Francisco and

See KANOA on Page 26

GCA 2 still undefeated

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy 2 kept its perfect record in the middle school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League after sweeping sister squad GCA 2, 25-17, 25-18, last Thursday at the Eagles court in Navy Hill.

GCA 2 secured its seventh win in as many games, while

GCA 1 absorbed its fourth loss against three victories.

The all-GCA duel was a close match in the early part of the first set before GCA 2 played steadier in the homestretch, capitalizing on GCA 1's errors to move a set away from taking the victory. In the second set, it was the same story with GCA 1 standing toe-to-toe with the favored GCA 2, but again the latter delivered at crutchtime



for the sweep.

The second set was tied last at 17-all before GCA 2, behind the strong finish of Sam Ryu and Steven Balakrishna, went on a 8-1 windup to end the match early. Balakrishna and Ryu teamed up in GCA 2's four unanswered points before an error return halted the rally and gave GCA 1 its 18th point. However, that was it for GCA 1, as the GCA 2 duo again delivered the needed points to seal the deal for their team. Ryu made an ace for a 22-18 advantage, while Balakrishna followed it up with a kill to up their lead to 5, 23-18. Another ace from Ryu moved GCA 2 closer to the victory, which the squad got right in the

See GCA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Grace Christian Academy 2 player, second left, sets up his teammate during the second set of their game against GCA 1 in the middle school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Thursday at the GCA court in Navy Hill.



Crank: Next foe up to manager, UFC

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho is still hoping to get the chance to face Diego "The Dream" Sanchez but insisted that the decision on finding his next opponent is up to his manager and Ultimate Fighting Championship officials.

"I would love to fight Diego Sanchez next. I asked him on Twitter and it was

cool he responded saying he likes the matchup. We'll see what happens next," Camacho (21-6, 15 knockouts) told *Saipan Tribune*. "But at the end of the day, it comes down to the managers and the UFC



matchmakers to make it happen. There is a huge roster of fighters. We never know who the UFC will have me matched up against."

Jason House of IridiumSports/Team Darkside man-

See CRANK on Page 26



Frank "The Crank" Camacho, right, connects with a right straight against Drew Dober during their fight in UFC on Fox 27: Jacare vs Brunson last month at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

MMA JUNKIE